

Hafa Adai!

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# Saipan Tribune



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## TINIAN DIVERT AIRFIELD TALKS

Marine Forces Pacific executive director Maj. Gen. Mark A. Hashimoto, front center, and Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan are joined by special assistant for Military Affairs Daniel I. Aquino, members of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, representatives of the Indo-Pacific Command and Joint Region Marianas, other officials, Cabinet members, and partnering departments and agencies after a CNMI Joint Military Training Meeting at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan to talk about the updated Environmental Impact Statement on the Tinian Divert Airfield. The revised EIS will reflect changes proposed in response to the 2015 EIS. Notable changes included the removal of Pagan from the proposal, no use of artillery, no aviation delivery munitions on Tinian, no amphibious ramps, no special use air space, reduced range footprint, expanded non-military access, and co-use of the Military Lending Act.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

# 'Allow access to foreign hospitals'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
[ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER



Muña

Commonwealth Health-care Corp. chief executive officer Esther L. Muña said Wednesday that they have already recommended to Medicaid to approve a state plan to allow foreign hospitals to be covered under their program.

In response to questions by Rep. Manny Gregory Castro

(Ind-Saipan) during the House Ways and Means Committee hearing on the proposed 2024 budget for CHCC, Muña said when they took over the Medical Referral program, now known as the Health Network Program, they knew it wasn't sustainable as local

See ALLOW on Page 4

## 'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:  
**106**

**SUPPLEMENT**  
Today's edition comes with a Father's Day supplement, "Super Dad: Superheroes in Disguise."

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**'I had to come and see this place'**

» **Son visits Saipan where dad dug foxholes, saw 'buddies' blown up**

By MARK RABAGO  
[mark\\_rabago@saipantribune.com](mailto:mark_rabago@saipantribune.com)  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Thomas "Tom" Ortman and his wife, Marilyn, are visiting Saipan this week to fulfill

a lifelong dream of visiting the place where his father, a World War II veteran, crawled from foxhole to foxhole and saw his fellow Marines shredded. See PLACE on Page 4

MARK RABAGO

From left, Thomas "Tom" Ortman, Marilyn Ortman, and Saipan Community School pastor Stephen Dame on the beach near Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa.

Guam Guardsman from Saipan helps with Mawar recovery



GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

Guam National Guard recruit Jay Rideb, of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on Saipan, works with the Guam Power Authority to restore services in the wake of Typhoon Mawar, Guam, last June 15, 2023.

**YIGO, Guam**—When Pvt. Jay Rideb of Saipan enlisted in the Guam Army National Guard in April as a 12R Interior Electrician, he wanted to add some purpose and direction to his life.

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## INSIDE



**SUPERHEROES in disguise**  
A FATHER'S DAY ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT  
Today's  
**Superhero Dad**

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**WORLD**  
Russia fires cruise missiles at Ukraine, killing at least six people and damaging dozens of homes.

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**OFF THE WALL**  
A woman taking a weekend stroll on a California beach finds a tooth from an ancient mastodon.

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## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING WELLNESS MISSION 2023 SAIPAN, TINIAN, ROTA



The Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, under the Office of the Governor, in collaboration with the Department of Defense, 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support) and various CNMI Community Partners are pleased to share information on the CNMI Operation Wellness Mission this July 2023.

**NO COST TO THE COMMUNITY AND NO INSURANCE REQUIRED**

**FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS**

**MILITARY PERSONNEL WILL OFFER:**

- Healthcare Exam Services
- Optometry Services
- Dentistry Services
- Veterinary Care
- Behavioral & General Health Public Education



**Saipan:**  
July 11 - 20, 2023

**Tinian & Rota:**  
July 11 - 19, 2023

**Operation Hours:**  
8AM - 5PM

**Locations are to be announced.**

# Local

## 2 from NMI to graduate from OSU

Two students from the CNMI will be graduating from Oregon State University, joining more than 7,300 students in ceremonies that will be held on June 17 at Reser Stadium in Corvallis and on June 18 at OSU-Cascades in Bend.

Robert Guerrero will graduate cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Sciences, while King-Dalton Dancoe will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. Of the 7,338 graduates who

will receive 7,583 degrees, there will be 238 students receiving two degrees, two receiving three degrees and one receiving four degrees. OSU's 2023 graduates represent 34 of Oregon's 36 counties, 50 states and 71 countries. (PR)

## High court denies Torres' challenge to Kingman's admission

The CNMI Supreme Court has denied a request from former governor Ralph DLG Torres to revoke the admission of James Robert Kingman as the special prosecutor in the criminal case against him. The high court's decision leaves Kingman free to continue the case.

Kingman, an attorney

from Texas, was admitted as the special prosecutor in the case on March 6, 2023, after being hired by the Office of the Attorney General.

In April, Torres' lawyers filed a challenge to Kingman's admission, claiming that his application was "materially deficient" on several grounds. They

also argued that the application should have been served on them through the court's electronic filing system.

The Supreme Court upheld Kingman's admission, finding that the Office of the Attorney General had complied with all the required laws regarding pro hac vice admission for special prosecutors.

In its decision, the high court wrote, "We find no material deficiency warranting the revocation of Kingman's admission."

The high court also concluded that there is no legal duty to serve an application for admission on opposing parties.

The Attorney General's Office has charged Torres with multiple counts relating to misconduct in public office and theft. Torres has denied all charges.

The full decision is available at <https://cnmilaw.org/spm23.php#gsc.tab=0> (PR)

## 'Torres administration gave CHCC \$11M ARPA money'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The previous Torres administration provided \$11 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to the Common-

wealth Healthcare Corp. and CHCC did receive that money in full, according to CHCC chief financial officer Perlita Santos on Wednesday.

In response to Rep. Marissa Renee Flores' (Ind-Saipan)

questions during the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee hearing on CHCC's proposed 2024 budget, Santos said the \$11 million was used to augment their financial revenue deficit

in fiscal year 2020.

With the increase in the Medicaid population due to the public health emergency arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, CHCC's costs also went up, Santos said.

However, their 2022 cost reimbursements from Medicaid were based on 2020 cost, which means they did not receive an adequate reimbursement in 2022.

"So the \$11 million funded the expenditure to support the Medicaid PE [Presump-

tive Eligibility] patients that went to the hospital," she said.

Santos said they have yet to adjust the 2022 cost report to recover that from Medicaid.

"So the \$11 million was used to fund the 2022 cost," Santos said.

## 89 complete dual program at NMTech, PSS

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute and the CNMI Public School system have certified 89 students upon

the completion of CNMI PSS school year 2022-2023 through their dual enrollment in the Trading Up Program in Construction and Hospitality.

Twelve students from Tanapag Middle School—six eighth graders; five seventh graders; and one sixth grader—received their nationally recognized credential in National Center for Construction

Education and Research Basic Construction Safety—part of CORE Fundamentals, a prerequisite to all construction-related curricula at NMTech.

Five Da'ok Academy students also received their national credential in CORE fundamentals, four of which were awarded at their high school graduation ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-

Purpose Center on June 4, 2023. Upon completion, Da'ok graduates are now enrolled in Construction Craft Laborer Level 1 as they continue their journey in their postsecondary education.

A mix of 72 sophomores, juniors, and seniors received an American Hotel and Lodging Education Institute certification yesterday, June 15.

AHLEI is also a nationally recognized certificate in the hospitality industry.

See 89 on Page 4

## ARMATECH



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### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Karidat to reopen on June 20

Karidat Social Services, including the Thrift Shop, will reopen beginning June 20, 2023. Karidat will be open from 8am to 4pm for community services. The Thrift Shop will be open Monday to Friday, from 9am to 3pm. (PR)

#### Fisheries scholarship applications deadline

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and its Education Committee members announced yesterday the availability of up to three graduate scholarships for the 2023-2024 academic year. These scholarships support the aspiration of American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to build their capacity to effectively manage their fisheries and related resources by employing people from the local communities.

Students with strong ties to these territories are eligible for scholarships that cover the cost of tuition and fees and some living expenses. The amount will be based on the university's estimated cost of attendance. Eligible students can use this scholarship for either UH Hilo, UH Manoa or the University of Guam. Obtain application at <https://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/fisheries-scholarship-applications-deadline/>

Funding for the scholarships comes in part from the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund, NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office and Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center.

For further details, contact Amy Vandehey at [info@wpfcouncil.org](mailto:info@wpfcouncil.org) or phone (808) 522-8220. (PR)

#### Youth Congress session set

The first day, second regular session of the 19th CNMI Youth Congress is scheduled for Saturday, June 17, 2023, at 11am in the House of Representative chamber. (PR)

#### GCC board meeting set

The Guam Community College board of trustees will hold a special meeting on Friday, June 16, 2023, at 12pm at Guam Community College in Room 112, Learning Resource Center (GCC Library), Building 4000. (PR)



### PUBLIC NOTICE

Friday, June 9, 2023

Through its Board of Directors, the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA), grants a three-month (90-day) automatic loan payment deferral for all ROTA CEDA LOAN CLIENTS/BUSINESS OWNERS from June 2023 to August 31, 2023.

#### Three-month (90-day) Loan Deferral Details:

- The deferred loan payments are added to the end of the loan.
- Customers need to remember that, eventually, they must make those payments.
- Restart your loan payments, on or by the due date, in the month of September 2023.
- Interest will accrue during the three-month loan payment deferral period (Loan interest rates range from a low of 2% to a max of 9%—with rates averaging 7%).
- The loan deferral period will not cure any delinquent past-due amounts.
- No action is required by borrowers to defer their loan payments, except, for those borrowers with scheduled automatic monthly loan payments (via debit/credit card), please contact us to temporarily cease those payments for all or part of the deferral.

#### Here's our contact info:

CEDA Loan Team  
Abby Atalig a.atalig@developcnmi.com (670) 234-6245 ext. 309  
Fred Cruz f.cruz@developcnmi.com ext. 305  
Marie Coleman m.coleman@developcnmi.com ext. 307

Rota office  
Elaine M. Manglona e.manglona@developcnmi.com (670) 532-9408

Or please visit us at the CEDA Building, room 103 (ground floor), located on San Jose Beach Road (across from The Shack & Oleai Beach Bar & Grill).

Please contact us at the above if we may be of further assistance.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan  
CEDA Executive Director



## 2023 SUMMER EXPERIENCES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Designed to challenge students to focus on solution-oriented actions to the issues that America and the world faces today.

**Saipan | June 25 - July 1  
Deadline: June 20, 2023**

Scan here to apply now!



**JSAI**

## CPA urged to probe non-removal of 4 shipping containers on Rota

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_deletorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) requested the Commonwealth Ports Authority yesterday to immediately look into a Rota seaport/stevedore operator's alleged failure to offload four cargo shipping containers, resulting

in them being returned to Guam.

Manglona, who chairs the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communication, wrote CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio and CPA staff attorney Joseph M. Hallahan to express concern relating to Rota Terminal and Transfer Company Inc.'s operations in-

volving the recent shipment of goods to Rota after Typhoon Mawar.

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to obtain comments from RTT.

The senator said the shipment involved 15 cargo shipping containers—nine 20-foot and six 40-foot containers—which arrived on Rota

## GUAM

From Page 1

"I thought to myself, 'Where is this going? What am I doing to advance myself?'" said Rideb.

Just one month later, after Typhoon Mawar lashed Guam with 140mph winds that cut the island's power, Rideb found that purpose and direction. He was chosen by his supervisors at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to assist the Guam Power Authority with restoring power to the people of his neighboring island.

Typhoon Mawar struck Guam as a Category 4 storm on May 24, bringing hurricane-force winds, heavy rain, and high seas, marking the strongest storm to affect the island since Typhoon Pongsona in 2002.

Due to the tireless efforts of Guam Power Authority linemen, their helpers like Rideb from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and other first responders working around the clock, the island's power grid was over half restored in about two weeks.

"When they told me I was chosen to come here, I felt proud," said Rideb. "I'm going to come here and help our people in Guam, because we're all neighbors, brothers and sisters."

Rideb acknowledged Guam's assistance to the CNMI in 2018, when Super Typhoon Yutu devastated Saipan, Tinian, and parts of Rota.

"I took it upon myself that I'm going to come out here, because they did the same to us. They came up there to help us, and if you're in need, we're always there," said Rideb. "It's a different job itself (compared



MARK SCOTT

Guam National Guard recruit Jay Rideb, center, with this Commonwealth Utilities Corp. coworkers from neighboring Saipan, works with the Guam Power Authority to restore services in the wake of Typhoon Mawar, Guam, June 15, 2023.



MARK SCOTT

Guam National Guard recruit Jay Rideb, center, with his Commonwealth Utilities Corp. coworkers from neighboring Saipan, works with the Guam Power Authority to restore services in the wake of Typhoon Mawar, Guam, June 15, 2023.

to his National Guard job), but the purpose is similar. You're going to give back, you're going to help, and

you're going to make people's life change." (*Guam National Guard Public Affairs*)

## PLACE

From Page 1

ded to pieces by Japanese mortar.

"I've been wanting to come here since I was 8 years old. My dad was wounded here and I basically wanted to see where they landed. He had talked about digging a foxhole while being shelled in a cemetery."

Thomas said his father, PFC James D. Ortman, was part of the Wake Island Avengers, a group of men who enlisted in the U.S. Army shortly after the Japanese took Wake Island in December 1941.

However, it took more than two years before Ortman saw his first combat action when he was part of the invasion force that stormed the island in June 1944. He was part of the 23rd Marine regiment, 4th Division, M Company, that landed on the beach near where the Saipan Community Church now stands.

Tom said his father didn't really talk much about the Battle of Saipan,



PFC James D. Ortman in an undated World War II photo. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

but he inferred from what little interaction he had with him that it brought his father to a dark place.

"Just very little and only every once in a while. If we were watching a John Wayne movie and they had a scene where the guy was crawl-

ing from foxhole to foxhole...all he said was, 'I did that.' That's all he said and I never asked him anything more about it."

That experience in the Pacific War probably left such a bad impression that when Tom told him he was about to take a physical to enlist in the Vietnam War, the elder Ortman became livid.

"I tried to enlist in the Marines. My friend told me, 'You better tell your dad.' So the night before the physical, I told him. I've never seen him mad at me in my whole life except that time; he was dead set against me going into service. He said, 'if you go into service, I won't be here when you come home.'"

Tom said that fateful day in the Chalan Kanoa cemetery where mortars were exploding around him changed his then 22-year-old father forever.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

to be offloaded at Rota's West Harbor last Sunday.

Manglona said he learned that RTT was provided explicit advance notice that the M/V *Tamaw Voyage V*, which transported the containers from Guam, would arrive at the West Harbor last Sunday morning, and was required to depart no later than the afternoon of the following day, Monday.

Yet, the senator said, between the Sunday arrival, and the Monday departure, RTT personnel removed only 11 of the 15 containers.

Manglona said this, in turn, left multiple Rota business owners, and the Rota community, shaking their collective heads in dismay, as RTT personnel never offloaded the four remaining containers.

Instead, he said, the four con-

ainers remained aboard and were returned to Guam, leaving their Rota vendors with zero to show for their efforts other than shipping bills for cargo shipped to but never unloaded by RTT.

He said those vendors included Harvest Market for two containers, and Sinapalo Safeway Store and Ace Hardware/Rota each for one container.

"Will perhaps RTT compensate those vendors? Will Commonwealth Ports Authority?" Manglona asked.

The senator asked CPA to notify him within seven days, in writing, as to what, if any, remedial action CPA has or shall take in response to this matter.

He said this incident constitutes yet the latest material breach of the CPA-RTT lease agreement.

tually have a sustainable program," she said.

Castro said a lot of CNMI's referral patients are being brought to places like Hawaii or California, which are expensive locations. He then asked about CHCC looking at other locations that are more affordable, like the Philippines or Taiwan.

He also asked if it is possible for CHCC to get a loan to procure a facility in those countries like a hotel where CHCC can also generate revenue—a place that can accommodate not just for indigent patients or people on medical referral, but other people in general.

Castro said he knows that a state plan in American Samoa allows them to send patients to New Zealand, which is not part of the U.S.

"I think a lot of the work really needs to go up to Medicaid to form a state plan that closes a lot of these gaps," the lawmaker said.

Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) said he and Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) have been working with Guam to find out how they were accepted to allow Medicaid and Medicare patients to be seen in the Philippines.

"So they've got that contractor agreements. We have been working with Guam on how that process went so we can actually try to decrease the costs," Attao said.

Kaitlyn Neises-Mocanu, who is the chief strategy officer at CHCC, said the strategy of reducing costs for medical referral is twofold—improving island services and expanding on-island services.

"It's a shame that we're spending so much money off-island and it's local money," Mocanu said.

She said beefing up local services is one component and that improving the data systems that they have around Medicare has been a priority for Muña and for the Health Network Program team.

Mocanu said the other component is maximizing Medicaid funding.

middle school students from TMS was then implemented, resulting in 12 certified students out of the 17 who signed up. The NMTech-PSS team is currently working on coordinating the transition of these students into high school and/or into other NMTech programs to ensure that their career pathway journey continues. (PR)

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From Page 3

Initially, the target population for Trading Up: Construction was aimed at recruiting high school students; however, recruitment efforts in Construction careers were not so enticing for this age group. A pilot project with

## People are fed up and want more protection—Hinds

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division has heard time and time again that the community wants more protection against repeat offenders and the OAG believes passing the Bail Reform Act would provide that.

Chief prosecutor Chester Hinds, who heads the division, said he supports the proposed Keisha King Bail Reform Act, believing it's a step in the right direction for the CNMI.

"I understand that there's a lot of concern that a defendant's rights will be taken away, but I don't think that that's the case with this bill. This bill is actually trying to strike a balance between a defendant's rights and protecting the community," he said.

Time and time again, Hinds said, the CNMI community has sought more protection against repeat offenders who are out on bail and the OAG believes that the Bail Reform Act strikes a balance between protecting the community and preserving an individual's rights.

"People in the community are fed up; they want more protection. They want the judges to do more; they want the OAG to do more; they want the Department of Public Safety to do more. This bill helps give the judges and the OAG the ability to keep repeat offenders in custody," he said.

"So when someone gets arrested and they already have a record, they might be on probation or they have a criminal record from the past for a violent offense, these are the kinds of defendants that the community

doesn't want to see back out again. They obviously could hurt someone else and this bill is going to help with that," Hinds added.

He explained that the bill still preserves an individual's rights because it doesn't call for a judge to deny bail outright. Instead, the bill requires the OAG's Criminal Division to file a motion to deny bail along with evidence, and a hearing is held before a judge who decides whether or not denial of bail is warranted.

"The court cannot outright deny bail; that cannot happen. Regardless of what offense you're arrested for, outside of murder, you can get bail but this gives the court the ability to decide, 'You're a repeat offender. ... We're going to deny bail based on your history.' If this legislation is passed, the

court must give the prosecution an opportunity to present evidence and file for a motion to deny bail. If we are able to present their criminal record, what kind of crime it was, and if we can prove with the preponderance of evidence that this person should be denied bail, then the court can deny bail. This law does not take away the court's discretion," he said.

In addition, Hinds said the legislation also requires that

the prosecution is given a 24-hour notice of a bail modification. That's not the case right now, as bail modification can happen at any time. During this time, the prosecution can file their motion if they believe the person should be denied bail or not.

Hinds believes that the bill, in its current language, is reasonable and fair.

"I don't agree that this legislation is unconstitutional. I think other jurisdictions have something similar to this bill. This is not to overstep in any-

way. It just provides a balance between a defendant's rights and protecting the community from repeat offenders. The judge isn't just going to deny bail just because. This legislation requires that a hearing is held, the prosecution was given a chance to present a motion and evidence, it isn't an automatic denial. If it was, then I could see the argument that it's unconstitutional but that's not the case," he said.

The Office of the Public Defender and a group of private lawyers are opposed to the bill.

authorities, and educational institutions located in the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The original announcement with more details on EIC grant availability was made on March 27, 2023. (PR)

## OIA extends deadline for EIC grant applications

**WASHINGTON**—In light of the recovery efforts following Typhoon Mawar, Department of the Interior assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor announced yesterday that the Office of Insular Affairs has ex-

tended the open season for grant proposal submissions under the Energizing Insular Communities grant program for fiscal year 2023 to July 17. Those eligible to apply, as previously announced, are local government entities, independent



### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
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Website: www.cnmiports.com

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUTER ACCESS ROAD PAVING, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-007-18 (AIP PENDING)**, for the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Commuter Access Road Paving Project", Project No. CPA-SA-007-18 (AIP PENDING)** and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2023**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Commuter Access Road Paving all in accordance with the plans and specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the (FAA) Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred twenty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications, and the bid schedule, can be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, beginning **1:00 p.m., Monday, June 5, 2023**, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY U.S. DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each set of plans and documents. The payment is nonrefundable unless bids are canceled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA's point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at [wprater@cnmiports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmiports.com) at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased a DVD and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder should supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be **TWO HUNDRED TEN (210) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **FIVE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS (\$500.00)** per calendar days shall be assessed the contractor if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government wide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

**FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:**

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: May 31, 2023



### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
Website: www.cnmiports.com

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals and their qualifications for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGES 1, 4 AND 5 REPLACEMENT, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-100, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Passenger Loading Bridges 1, 4 and 5 Replacement for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0002-100"** and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to replacement of three existing passenger boarding bridges at Gates 1, 4, and 5 with new apron-drive bridges at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, including all associated work in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract provides that the Contractor shall invoice for labor and materials for passenger boarding bridge replacement at Gate 1 separately from the invoice for passenger boarding bridges replacement at Gates 4 and 5 (which may be invoiced together).

The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY U.S. DOLLARS (\$250.00)** for each set of bid documents in electronic format (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless bids are canceled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at [wprater@cnmiports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmiports.com) immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD. Bidders should also verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 a.m., FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager at email address [wprater@cnmiports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmiports.com) or telephone number (670) 237-6500.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at [wprater@cnmiports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmiports.com), at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of bid submission extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased the bid documents and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished on the DVD. Each bidder should also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX (526)** calendar days for all three bridges. Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) U.S. Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government wide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

**FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:**

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: May 16, 2023



Never satisfied until you are

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E-mail:guangdong.hardware@163.com

**BUSINESS HOURS:**  
Monday to Saturday  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORINVITATION FOR BIDS  
CUC-IFB-23-023Supply and Delivery of Permanent Meter Test Bench  
And Portable Meter Test Bench

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of one (1) permanent meter test bench and one (1) portable meter test bench for the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to assist water operation staff with CUC's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Management Strategy (SWIMS) program.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **June 15, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-23-023, Supply and Delivery of Permanent Meter Test Bench and Portable Meter Test Bench" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 28, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 16, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address, manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM  
Purchasing Administrator

## USCIS updates EAD guidance

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services released yesterday policy guidance on the eligibility criteria for initial and renewal applications for employment authorization documents in compelling circumstances based on existing regulatory requirements at 8 CFR 204.5(p).

For an applicant to be eligible for an initial EAD based on compelling circumstances, they must meet the following eligibility requirements:

■ The principal applicant is in valid E-3, H-1B, H-1B1, O-1, or L-1 nonimmigrant status or authorized grace period when they file the Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization;

■ The principal applicant has not filed an adjustment of status application;

■ An immigrant visa is not available to the principal applicant based on the applicant's priority date according to the relevant Final Action Date in the U.S. Department of State's Visa Bulletin in effect when they file Form I-765;

■ The applicant and their dependents provide biometrics as required;

■ The applicant and their dependents have not been convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors; and

■ USCIS determines, as a matter of discretion, that the principal applicant demonstrates compelling circumstances that justify the issuance of employment authorization.

The guidance covers compelling circumstances for principal applicants and their dependents and provides a non-exhaustive list of situations that could lead to a finding that compelling circumstances exist, including serious illness and disability, employer dispute or retaliation, other substantial harm to the applicant, or significant disruption to the employer.

The guidance also provides details on evidence an applicant could submit to demonstrate one of these compelling circumstances. For example, a principal applicant with an approved immigrant visa petition in an oversubscribed visa category or chargeability area, who has lived in the United States for a significant amount of time, could submit evidence such as school or higher education enrollment records, mortgage records, or long-term lease records to support a potential finding of compelling circumstances. Compelling circumstances could include, if, due to job loss, the family may otherwise be forced to sell their home for a loss, pull their children out of school, and relocate to their home country.

For more information about these compelling circumstances EADs, please see the USCIS resource on Options for Nonimmigrant Workers Following Termination of Employment, for more evidence on options for maintaining a period of authorized stay in the United States. (USCIS)

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ., F0122  
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL: (670) 234-6547  
FAX: (670) 234-9537  
EMAIL: mwwhite@saipan.com  
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS : CIVIL ACTION  
HOUSING CORPORATION : NO. 18-0410

Plaintiff, :  
-v- :  
RAMON S. DELA CRUZ AND :  
REBECCA C. DELA CRUZ, :  
Defendants. :

## FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 14, 2022, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:  
Lot no. 001 G 74, containing an area of 729 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 001 G03, the original of which was recorded 20 March 1986 as Document no. 86-0510 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Total area of the property:  
729 square meters

Known encumbrances:  
A mortgage in favor of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 21, 2023, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. A copy of a title insurance report for the property is available to any prospective bidder upon request. A copy of the mortgage in favor of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, a plat map showing boundaries of the above-described property, a map of the property's location in Saipan, a copy of this Notice, and a copy of the Court's Order of October 14, 2022, are available for inspection and copying at the offices of the undersigned. Prospective bidders can view and inspect the property at any time during normal business hours. The sale may be postponed by the undersigned at any time.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Additional Terms and Conditions. A deposit of 10% of the successful bid is payable to the undersigned by the close of business on the date of sale, and the balance of the successful bid is to be paid within three (3) working days thereafter. The purchase price will be held in escrow pending approval of the sale by the Court. The sale is subject to the Court's approval. Upon approval by the Court, a Certificate of Sale will be issued to the successful purchaser upon satisfying the terms of payment. The sale is also subject to statutory redemption rights of 12 months following the date of sale. If the property is not redeemed during the redemption period, a Quitclaim Deed will issue, conveying title to the purchaser.

DATED, this 1st day of May, 2023:

/s/  
MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23 – 084

Opening Date: Tuesday, June 13, 2023  
Closing Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	Fiscal Assistant
DEPARTMENT:	Tinian Administration
LOCATION:	Tinian, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$16,742.00 to \$22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Resident Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department.

## Duties:

- Updates and verifies customer account or work order information; enters and balances payment data; prepares timekeeping records; may work in the field obtaining and entering customer utility meter information, and replacing or disconnecting utility meters and services.
- Receives customer payments; balances and records cash and other payment receipts; verifies receipts against payment system data; and prepares deposits.
- Monitors and updates customer account information; researches account discrepancies or unusual meter readings; calculates payment information for past-due accounts, new installations and security deposits; reports research findings; and/or follows up on service or work order status.
- Greets customers or receives calls; responds to customer inquiries such as account balance information, payment due dates, minimum payment amounts due or general information inquiries; refers customers to appropriate resources.
- Copies and scans documents; maintains and organizes files records, reports and accounting transaction documentation.
- Updates and maintains spreadsheet reports; prepares fiscal transaction reports or other work activity reports.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

## Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma or Adult Basic Education Program.

Knowledge of: Cash handling practices (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.

Skills in: Receiving, posting and reconciling payments, cash receipts or account information; Verifying and updating account or utility meter information; Providing customer service and responding to inquiries; Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching account information or discrepancies; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test

**How to Apply:** Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org.

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131  
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

# Tender sailors help NBG power grid

By VICTORIA KINNEY  
USS EMORY S. LAND (AS-39)

## POLARIS POINT NAVAL BASE GUAM, Guam

—After Typhoon Mawar hit the small island of Guam, many residents on U.S. Naval Base Guam were left without power. Many of the island's residents compared Typhoon Mawar to Super Typhoon Pongsona, which was one of the most intense typhoons to ever strike the island. After Pongsona struck the island in 2002, an assessment team was formed to examine the effects of the storm. Even though provisions were made in preparation for another storm of the same magnitude, the direct hit by Typhoon Mawar had severely stressed the existing infrastructure.

The physical damage caused by the typhoon was limited due to the hard work of sailors from the submarine tenders USS *Emory S. Land* (AS 39) (ESL) and USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) (FCB) who had been tasked with preparing Polaris Point before the storm. Their efforts included preparing sand bags, removing debris, removing hazardous materials from the waterfront, and ensuring the readiness of the Emergent Repair Facility. However, the winds in excess of 125 knots still caused significant damage to above-ground power lines and to many of the island's power generation facilities. Sailors from ESL and FCB, along with Seabees from Task Force 75, immediately pitched in to install and maintain emergency generators and to assist the base Public Works Department, Naval Facilities

Engineering Command, and Guam Power Authority in restoring power to military installations and housing areas across the island.

"I heard that they needed volunteers at the Orote Power Plant on base and could use personnel that are smart with mechanics on diesel engines," said Machinist's Mate (Nuclear) 1st Class Tybalt Ridgard, assigned to ESL, from Hawthorne, Fla. "I'm a nuclear trained machinist's mate, so although that's not my specialty, I was sure I could help out somehow."

Multiple crew members of the submarine tenders volunteered to provide assistance with the recovery of Orote Point Power Plant, to include Machinist's Mate Auxiliary 1st Class Edward Going, assigned to ESL, from Natural Bridge, N.Y.

"When I joined the Navy, I wanted a change and an opportunity to a better career path," Going said. "When I saw the opportunity to help, I knew I wanted to give back and to put my skills to use for something bigger."

Orote Point Power Plant was constructed to be a standby generation unit to supplement Guam Power Authority's islandwide distribution system. The plant can also be used as an emergency source for essential facilities, but has been in a long-term layup for major structural and electrical work that was scheduled to complete next year. Nevertheless, diesel and electrical experts from ESL, FCB, and the local Performance Monitoring Team were able to make emergency repairs and restore one 6 MW diesel engine to operation on

May 31. The work included repairing and reinstalling cooling systems, replacing engine gaskets and expansion boots, and devising options to route the power output to key distribution systems despite significant electrical switchgear removed for overhaul. Sailors hand-cut the needed gaskets from a large sheet of material that was available from the ship.

Sailors from ESL and FCB also played a key role in other vital tasks, including connecting emergency generators to the base commissary and cold food storage, fitness center, and barracks, repairing damaged air conditioners at the barracks and at McCool Elementary and Middle School, supporting underwater inspections of the harbor and vessels, and in moving merchandise and books out of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Thrift Store and base library before mold damage could set in.

"Our sailors have an impressive range of mechanical, electrical, diving, and other technical skills, as well as tremendous creativity" said Capt. Brent Spillner, commanding officer of the *Emory S. Land*. "Every time they hear about a generator or air conditioning plant not working properly, they take that as a personal challenge, and I'm convinced that there's absolutely nothing they can't repair or rebuild."

"I was happy that my efforts successfully contributed to the power restoration on base," said Ridgard.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

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- Must have thorough analytical skills for reconciliation of fleet cards and credit card transactions.
- Must demonstrate ability to communicate effectively in English.
- Can work under minimum supervision.
- Can work on a fast paced environment.
- Experience with QuickBooks, NAV, Microsoft Excel (spreadsheet) and Word programs.
- Organized, honest, trustworthy and a team player.
- Great attitude.
- We will train the right person
- On island reference & police clearance required.

E-mail resume to: [islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com](mailto:islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com)  
and [deltaspn@pticom.com](mailto:deltaspn@pticom.com)



## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-23-022

#### SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FIVE (5) LIGHT-DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids to supply and deliver five (5) light-duty vehicles to Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to assist with the project management and inspections for the CUC Water and Wastewater systems upgrades and improvements.

**This project is funded by a United States of Environment Protection Agency (USEPA) grant.**

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-23-022, Supply and Delivery of Five (5) Light-Duty Vehicles**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 20, 2023** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

**Questions or requests for clarification** will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 1, 2023**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) and [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM  
Purchasing Administrator

## TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguijan  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

#### AGENDA

##### I. PRELIMINARY

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes
- 1. October 18, 2022 - Regular Meeting
- 2. December 8, 2022 - Special Meeting
- 3. January 11, 2023 - Special Meeting
- 4. February 27, 2023 - Regular Meeting

##### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS'

- a. Chair's Report
- b. Executive Director's Report

##### IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Status Update of Bridge Investment Group/Tinian Diamond Casino
- b. Consulting Agreement-Asian Business Knowledge

##### V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Contract - Legal Counsel Oliver M. Manglona
- b. Consulting Agreement - Amerine Gaming Enterprises
- c. Key Employee Personal History Disclosure
- d. Tinian Diamond Casino Operating Hours
- e. ED Recommendation No. 2023-01 (Casino Key Employee Licenses, Employee Licenses, and Hotel Registration)
- f. ED Recommendation No. 2023-01.CS1.CS1(e) (Casino Service Industry Licenses and Corporate Qualifiers)
- g. Special Assessment Fees

##### VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION'

##### VIII. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Bridge Investment Group's Letter dated June 15, 2023

##### IX. MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

##### X. ADJOURNMENT

Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes.

Everyone is welcome to written comments.

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

MARK SCOGGINS  
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Attorney for Petitioner.

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

MARK R. TORRES, ESQ.

Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 500730 CK  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859  
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, ] CIVIL ACTION

NO. 21-0169

Plaintiff, ]

Deceased, ]

Date: July 6, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

VS. ] NOTICE OF HEARING

ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION

FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT

EDWIN B. TUDELA and ]

PATRICIA A. TUDELA, ] Date: July 31, 2023

and ] Time: 1:30 p.m.

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH ] Judge: Hon. Kenneth

OF CHRIST ] L. Govendo

through its representative, ]

Pastor Mariza S. Ilarde, ]

Successor in Interest, ]

Defendants. ]

NOTICE OF HEREBY GIVEN that on July 31, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held before the Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI"), Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, CNMI.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO NOTICED this 8th day of June 2023.

Dated this 12th day of May 2023.

/S/

HON. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge

CNMI SUPERIOR COURT

Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk of Court

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 119

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**AP** The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Will we every truly know the depth of pandemic fraud?

The late American satirist P.J. O'Rourke once cracked that "Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys." The \$32 trillion national debt is one testament to the accuracy of his observation. The billions and billions of dollars that Washington squandered during the pandemic is yet another.

The Associated Press on Monday unveiled the results of an investigation headlined "The Great Grift," cataloging how the federal government got ripped off in its effort to mitigate the economic carnage of COVID. The fraud was so widespread that it might be another two years before federal accountants can tally an accurate total. For now, however, the wire service report pegs the figure at about \$420 billion—or 10 percent of the \$4.2 trillion the government spent on pandemic relief.

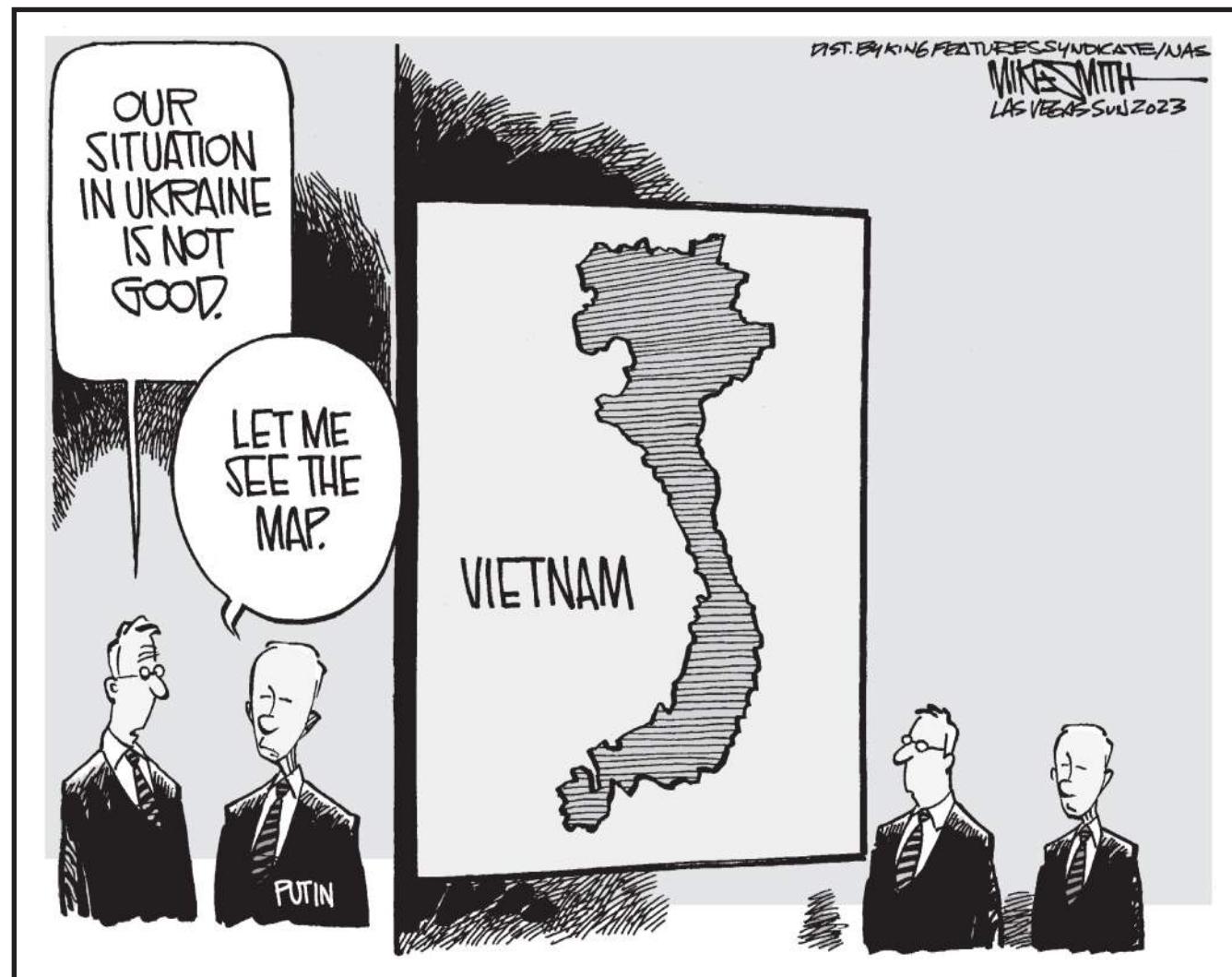
"Investigators and outside experts say the government, in seeking to quickly spend trillions in relief aid, conducted too little oversight during the pandemic's early stages and instituted too few restrictions on applicants," the AP wrote. "In short, they say, the grift was just way too easy."

To make matters worse, agencies failed to do their due diligence in many instances, such as consulting a "Do Not Pay" Treasury database that includes rogue contractors, tax cheats, felons and other nefarious characters. Michael Horowitz, the U.S. Justice Department inspector general who chairs the federal Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, told the wire service that using such safeguards would have caused only minor delays in the dispersal of COVID relief and would have saved taxpayers billions.

"It's a false narrative that has been set out, that there are only two choices," he said. "One choice is, get the money out right away. And that the only other choice was to spend weeks and months trying to figure out who was entitled to it."

Federal prosecutors have charged more than 2,200 people with illegally collecting checks and have thousands of investigations pending. But will anyone in the federal bureaucracy be held accountable for failing to abide by the usual precautions intended to protect taxpayers? Don't bet on it. Had a private company lost billions of dollars due to such bungling, it would fast be out of business, its executives in the unemployment line. In Washington, this is business as usual.

The stark difference is that, if private entities act foolishly, they risk their own financial health or investor cash. Washington, on the other hand, plays with other people's money, so who cares? Which is why the country is barreling toward the fiscal cliff, as an empty whiskey bottle rattles around on the floorboard.



### Stabilize US-China relations—before a 'near miss' turns into a crisis

This week, Secretary of State Antony Blinken will travel to Beijing—the latest, welcome effort by Washington to inject stability into a dangerously fraught U.S.-China relationship.

Yet despite their progress toward constructive diplomacy, the two nations' relationship remains at the lowest point since relations were normalized in the seventies, characterized by mutual suspicion and hostility, especially when it comes to the issue of Taiwan.

A recent close encounter between a U.S. destroyer and a Chinese warship in the Taiwan Strait highlights how—unless Beijing and Washington take meaningful steps to avert it—the dangerous dynamics driving the world's two most powerful countries toward a possible crisis or conflict over Taiwan can quickly overwhelm any nascent diplomatic thaw.

The incident in question involved a potentially dangerous maneuver by the Chinese warship, which cut in front of the U.S. warship at a distance of 150 yards. This unprecedented maneuver—the first of its kind in the Taiwan Strait—reflects an escalation in Beijing's overall efforts to challenge what it sees as an American escalation regarding Taiwan. China's perceptions are shaped in part by an erosion of Washington's long-standing One China policy and increased U.S. efforts to elicit greater support for its Taiwan policy from distant allies like Canada (whose warship took part in this weekend's transit).

China's latest action exemplifies the larger "tit-for-tat" dynamic that has come to define U.S. and Chinese interactions, whereby each side doubles down on what it sees as deterrence signals that in fact only serve to provoke further such signals.

Beijing might be attempting to create a new "normal" by employing more aggressive military means to achieve a position of military dominance around Taiwan, or at least to counter what it views as U.S. efforts to militarily dominate or intimidate China in its backyard. China's Defense Minister Li Shangfu said as much in recent remarks at the Shangri-la Dialogue following the warship incident, criticizing the U.S. for exercising "hegemony of navigation" near Taiwan and called for Washington to "take good care of its own territorial airspace and waters."

Washington of course rejects such Chinese efforts and justifications, asserting that it is merely exercising its legal right to operate militarily outside of China's territorial waters. But it is also clearly intent on sending a strong deterrence signal via such actions, and other military operations near Taiwan. And, according to private

**By MICHEL SWAINE**  
Tribune News Service

*Michael Swaine is a Senior East Asia Fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft.*



discussions, some U.S. military officers involved in the Taiwan Strait transits apparently relish the fact that such U.S. operations succeed in provoking the Chinese.

In this vicious cycle, neither government (or military) officially acknowledges that it is escalating and thereby worsening the situation, despite the obvious contrary reality. If the cycle continues, the Taiwan Strait will witness more such incidents, and thus likely serve as a crucible for future, more severe crises.

To avoid the next close encounter turning into a crisis, Washington should build on its recent diplomatic overtures by making its commitment to the One China policy clear and credible. The United States should reaffirm its openness to any long-term peaceful, uncoerced outcome of the Taiwan situation—something it used to say regularly. As a gesture of its seriousness, the United States should also reduce the frequency of its "freedom of navigation" operations (FONOPs) and Taiwan Strait transits.

None of this should occur in the absence of Beijing clearly conveying its continued commitment to a peaceful, uncoerced resolution of the Taiwan issue as a first priority, and ending its dangerous military pushback in the Taiwan Strait and elsewhere around the island. It also needs to confirm that it has no deadline for resolving the Taiwan issue.

If Washington and Beijing truly seek to avoid a disastrous conflict, constructive diplomacy designed to stabilize their bilateral relationship is paramount. They should begin discussions to reach these understandings on Taiwan, the most critical issue affecting peace and security in Asia and beyond.

Until both sides work constructively to unwind this tit-for-tat dynamic, close calls like this will keep happening—and a serious crisis over Taiwan may not be a matter of if, but when.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The

*Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Father's Day: Honoring the unsung heroes

**F**ather's Day is an extraordinary occasion with a special place in our hearts. This memorable day allows us to express our gratitude and pay tribute to the unsung heroes who have significantly shaped our lives and provided unconditional love and support. While Mother's Day often takes the spotlight, Father's Day is an equally momentous occasion that allows us to recognize and appreciate the invaluable contributions of fathers and father figures. This time, we can honor and acknowledge the immense sacrifices, hard work, and dedication fathers have shown in raising and guiding us.

Throughout the years, the role of fathers has played a significant transformation. Gone are the days when fathers were solely responsible for financially supporting their families. Today's fathers are actively involved in nurturing their children, performing household chores, and making significant sacrifices for the well-being of their families. Father's Day serves as a timely reminder to acknowledge and celebrate the evolution of fatherhood. We can demonstrate our gratitude and appreciation for fathers by recognizing their efforts to maintain a healthy work-life balance and actively participate in their children's lives. By doing so, we can help foster stronger family bonds and create a more nurturing and supportive environment for everyone.

### Reflecting on the lessons learned

Father's Day allows us to reflect on the valuable life lessons we have learned from our fathers. Fathers instill essential values that shape our character, whether it's perseverance, resilience, or integrity. One of the most memorable aspects of my father's love was his tradition of giving us a *pasalubong* whenever he returned home from work. *Pasalubong* is a Filipino term for a gift or souvenir that are brought back from a trip. How he distributed it among us made my father's

*pasalubong* genuinely remarkable. Rather than giving a single snack to any of us, my father would divide it equally among his four daughters. As I grew older, this seemingly simple act held profound significance as it fostered a sense of fairness, unity, and shared experiences. My father's act of justice created a sense of unity and camaraderie among us. We eagerly anticipated the *pasalubong*, not just for the gift itself but also for the opportunity to bond as sisters. In those moments, we forged a deep bond, transcending time and distance, becoming a pillar of support throughout our lives.

Expressing gratitude toward your father for the invaluable advice and knowledge he has imparted to you is vital to cultivating a strong and healthy relationship with him. Acknowledging his guidance's influence on your growth and accomplishments is a significant way to show your appreciation and respect for his wisdom and experience. So, take the time to express gratitude for the knowledge and guidance he imparted to you and acknowledge its impact on your personal growth and success.

### Celebrating diversity in fatherhood

As we celebrate Father's Day, it's a vital opportunity to recognize and pay tribute to all those individuals who have taken on a father's challenging and rewarding role, irrespective of genetic ties. We must acknowledge the countless uncles, grandfathers, stepfathers, and mentors who have selflessly stepped up and played an essential paternal role in our lives. It's necessary to appreciate and commemorate the unique contributions of all these diverse individuals who have positively impacted us. Let's take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude and honor all those who have broadened our understanding and appreciation of fatherhood beyond conventional norms and boundaries.

**By ROSEMARIE EMBILE**

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*



### Creating lasting memories

Father's Day is a beautiful time to create cherished memories with our fathers. It's the perfect opportunity to plan activities that cater to his interests and passions, making him feel genuinely valued and appreciated. Consider organizing a family outing to a place he loves, preparing his favorite meal, or simply engaging in activities you enjoy together. These shared experiences will strengthen your bond and leave a lasting impression. Celebrating Father's Day thoughtfully and personally demonstrates your understanding and appreciation for what truly matters to him.

Father's Day is an annual occasion that calls for us to pay tribute to the invaluable contributions of fathers and father figures in our lives. It is a time to pause and reflect on the valuable life lessons we have learned from them and appreciate their impact on our personal growth and development. Moreover, Father's Day is an opportunity for us to embrace the changing dynamics of fatherhood and to celebrate the diversity of fatherhood experiences that exist in our society. Above all, it is a time to create lasting memories with our fathers and to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for their unwavering love and support throughout the years. Happy Father's Day to all the wonderful fathers throughout the world!

## Trump has officially broken the Republican Party

**T**here are tens of millions of conservatives in the U.S. For American democracy to succeed, they need a political party that productively channels their aspirations, represents their ideologies, mediates their conflicts and functions in accord with democratic values and the rule of law.

No such party exists.

The vacuum is only partly a collective action problem. Pro-democracy conservative elites have failed to organize to defend democracy and advance their interests. The third-tier candidates opposing Donald Trump and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis for the GOP presidential nomination can't even settle on a narrative for why such brazenly anti-democratic politicians pose a danger.

Arriving at a collective strategy to neutralize the threat is even more unlikely. Former Representative Liz Cheney has been a brave truth teller. But she has been mostly singing solo, which enabled MAGA supporters to isolate, demonize and remove her from power.

The problem is also a function of how deeply askew the GOP was even before Trump. The Republican demand for stupid conspiracy theories to explain the world – climate scientists are all making it up, Barack Obama is an African-born socialist – presaged the moral collapse into Trumpism.

The party may have plumbed a new low after Trump was indicted last week on 37 felony counts for allegedly mishandling classified documents, including highly classified state secrets. The former president was also charged with obstructing the federal investigation.

The indictment was in some ways an homage to the alternate universe inhabited by the Republican Party. It consisted of evidence untainted by association with the world outside MAGA. There were photographs taken by Trump staff. Texts between Trump employees. Transcripts of audiotape of Trump talking. Sworn testimony from Trump lawyers. Transcripts of Trump public statements. It was a collection of facts exfiltrated from the MAGAsphere and derived exclusively from the MAGA king and his subjects. But the provenance

of individual facts is irrelevant once you have rejected the legitimacy of facts altogether.

Most Republican elites took a look at the damning reality of the indictment, and promptly rejected the latest opportunity to break with Trumpism. Some addressed the indictment in the traditional manner, by misleading Fox News viewers about Hillary Clinton. Others shoveled buckets of nonsense. Still others resorted to rewriting the law in their heads to render Trump's actions magically lawful. Some argued that the man who led chants of "lock her up" wasn't being afforded the same grace and forbearance that he had magnanimously bestowed upon his (noncriminal) political opponents.

There were instances of honesty, from Senators Lisa Murkowski and Mitt Romney, and even from William Barr, who as Trump's attorney general facilitated Trump's attacks on democracy. (Barr appears to have drifted toward the rule of law crowd after Jan. 6, 2021.) But the isolated, uncoordinated, musings of select conservatives are unlikely to have a significant impact on the Republican electorate.

In a CBS News poll taken after the indictment was announced, 80% of likely GOP primary voters said they would like Trump to be able to be president even if he is convicted. Three-quarters want a nominee "similar to Trump" if Trump is not the nominee. Meanwhile, the New York Times reported "a wave" of calls for violence by Trump supporters. The Washington Post likewise noted a "surge" in violent right-wing rhetoric.

The chicken-and-egg dilemma of the GOP—Republican elites won't risk telling the base the truth because the base doesn't want to hear it, and those voters never learn the truth because party leaders and party-aligned media only give them what they want—has been going on since at least 2016. Without concerted action by Republican elites, it's hard to see how the party pulls out of its anti-democratic spiral.

Relaying his discussions about Trump's indictment with people "inside the Republican race" for president, CBS News reporter Robert Costa said Sunday: "There is alarm in the sense that they believe if he wins the presidency again, he is now so comfortable with the levers of power, and he ignores

**By FRANCIS WILKINSON**

Bloomberg Opinion



the rule of law in the eyes of some of his [GOP] competitors, that he could be a threat to American democracy. Yet very few are saying that publicly."

Democracy barely survived Trump's first term, which ended with his instigating a violent assault to halt the transfer of power to a newly elected government. It's unlikely it could survive a second round.

The most pressing task for anyone eager to bolster democracy is to find a way to make a viable, intra-party fighting force of Murkowskis and Romneys and even the unreliable Barrs. Though a GOP rescue mission has yet to materialize, that doesn't mean that it won't. It took a few years to repel the force of McCarthyism in the early 1950s.

The trouble is, this is year eight of MAGA's dominion over the party. If millions of Republicans are still clamoring for Trump, it's unlikely that it's because they've failed to notice that he is spectacularly corrupt. For many followers, his lies and graft and even his buffoonery and contempt for national security are a net positive, another means to convey their own loathing for elites and a system that they feel discounts them. Attacks on pluralistic, multi-racial, democracy won't stop anytime soon.

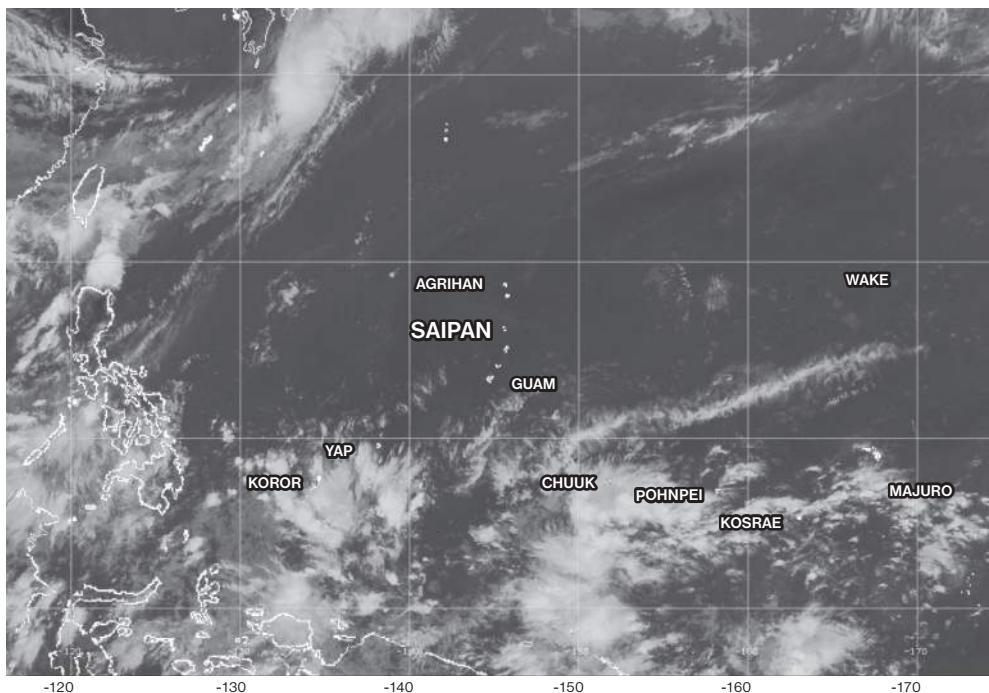
With work, luck and pluck, Democrats and independents can repel the GOP. But they can't reform it. Only Republicans can do that. Many Republicans appear to be waiting, still, for the right moment. Like last weekend.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Isolated showers. Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
87°	78°	86°	78°	85°
79°	86°	78°	85°	79°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 5:36 AM, THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy across the region. Altimetry shows combined seas around 4 to 5 feet. Winds are light to gentle. Ipan buoy has water temperatures at around 85 degrees and confirms the Altimetry readings.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	87°	/	81°
Palau	Thunderstorms	82°	/	75°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84°	/	78°
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	86°	/	80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86°	/	77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86°	/	79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85°	/	80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:50 AM	5:07 PM	-
Saturday	4:36 AM	6:03 PM	-
Sunday	5:26 AM	6:59 PM	-
Monday	6:18 AM	7:52 PM	-
Tuesday	7:12 AM	8:42 PM	-

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website: [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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## AROUND THE GLOBE

Auckland	Rain/Thunder	57° / 49°
Beijing	Sunny	105° / 76°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 74°
London	Mostly Sunny	80° / 57°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	71° / 61°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Sunny	61° / 50°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
New York	Partly Cloudy	82° / 65°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	80° / 67°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	86° / 62°
Busan	Sunny	77° / 66°
Rome	Sunny	86° / 60°
Salem	Thunderstorms	78° / 65°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	66° / 55°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	84° / 62°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	81° / 68°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	85° / 65°

## TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

12:00 AM	Low Tide	1.36
05:15 AM	High Tide	2.10
12:49 PM	Low Tide	-0.07
8:00 PM	High Tide	1.95

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2023

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA156	6:55PM	7:40PM	1, 4 effective	UA112	5:00PM	5:50PM	1, 4 effective
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
			ICN				via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau,
			Guam				Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, TWay Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022				SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/				Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
				3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102			

# SUPERHEROES in disguise

A FATHER'S DAY ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

SUPER  
DAD



## Today's *Superhero* **Dad**

By TERI M. FLORES  
CORRESPONDENT

Father's Day is this Sunday, June 18, traditionally set aside to honor and acknowledge the contributions that fathers make in the lives of their children and their own families.

"Anyone can father a child but being a dad takes a lifetime," an unknown pundit once said, and the American Academy of Pediatrics agrees. In their clinical report, these doctors underscored the fact that fathers play a role in every child's life that cannot be filled by others. Fathers mold

our cognitive and emotional growth on which we build who we become later on in life.

Dads are not just superheroes in the eyes of their children, but these hard facts show the truth behind this monicker. Fathers who are highly involved in their children's lives rear children with increased mental dexterity, empathy, and greater self-control. Also, dads who play and roughhouse with their kids foster better emotional intelligence, memory, learning, morals, and ethics in children.

Despite these contributions, only 39% of fathers believe they're doing a "very good job" at being a dad, compared to 51% of mothers who believe in the merits of their contributions.

The latest U.S. Census show that, as of 2022, there are 72.2 million fathers nationwide. Globally, it is estimated that there is a total of 1.5 billion to 2 billion fathers in all.

Changing attitudes on fatherhood have seen the millennial dad evolve into a much more hands-on parent than their baby boomer and Gen X counterparts. Today, there are about 2 million to 4 million fathers who have opted to stay home and have become increasingly more likely than women to change careers, decline a pay raise, move, or leave the country to better suit their family's needs. It's comforting to know that the millennial dad says "I love you" more frequently than their parents did and that more fathers are showing affection to their children than they received as kids.

So, kudos goes to Dad, Poppa, Pops, Pappu, or whatever name he is known in your family. You are indeed a superhero nonpareil!

"The greatest mark of a father is how he treats his children when no one is looking."

—Dan Pearce

HAPPY  
**FATHER'S**  
DAY



From the management and staff of  
**Shirley's** COFFEE SHOP  
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*Thanks to all the dads and father figures giving their time, support, and love. You're appreciated!*

From the management and staff of **WUSHIN**  
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Fax: 322-7414  
Email: wushin2@pticom.com

# Trivia, info, and other Father's Day nuggets

By TERI M. FLORES  
CORRESPONDENT

In honor of that special man in our lives who provides the template for who we eventually become in life, these nuggets of information show why they earn the moniker of superhero.

Historians describe Father's Day as an event that complements Mother's Day in celebrating fathers, fathering, and fatherhood. Observed in 111 countries worldwide, Father's Day is celebrated every third week of June among several countries, including in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom; Algeria and Kenya in Africa; Argentina and Colombia in South America; and in Japan, Singapore, and the Philippines in Asia. A host of other countries celebrate the occasion on different dates and depending on the country's tradition.

Irish and Polish communities, as well as Spain and Portugal, join other Catholic countries in observing Father's Day on March 19, which



also falls on the Feast of St. Joseph. In Taiwan, Father's Day is held on Aug. 8—the eighth day of the eighth month—as the Mandarin Chinese word for eight sounds like the word for "Papa." Father's Day in Thailand is celebrated on Dec. 5, which is the birthday

of former King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The earliest mention of a Father's Day celebration dates to 1508 when it was considered as a Southern European tradition.

In modern history, *Continued on Next Page*

*Dads are extraordinary humans who got the strength of a mountain, an infinite amount of love, and the patience of eternity.*

**HAPPY**  
**Father's**  
**DAY**

FROM THE OFFICE OF  
**Rep. Malcolm J. Omar**  
CNMI House of Representatives  
Precinct #4

*From Page 12*

ticularly in the United States, Father's Day finally being declared a U.S. national holiday only gained momentum in 1972, even though efforts to make the celebration official began in 1910.

Two women take the credit for getting Father's Day recognized: Grace Golden Clayton and Sonora Smart Dodd. Clayton, the daughter of a devoted minister, organized the first known event dedicated to fathers on July 5, 1908, with a father-themed memorial honoring 360 men, most of whom were fathers, who died in the worst mining accident in U.S. history. This annual event, however, failed to gain momentum since it was only promoted within the confines of the West Virginia community.

Officially known to have placed Father's Day on the calendar is Dodd who, with support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the Young Men's Christian Association, hosted a "father's day" event honoring her father and other fathers as well. The event was originally scheduled to be held on June 5, which was the birthday of Dodd's father. However, the date changed to June 19, 1910, and became an annual event from thereon. Soon after this, other towns began holding their own Father's Day celebrations.

Despite widespread support, Father's Day became an official, permanent public holiday just 51 years ago. President Woodrow Wilson in 1913 was the first among four U.S. Presidents who supported the passage of the first bill in the U.S. Congress commemorating Father's Day. Congress initially resisted

*Continued on Page 15*

**Happy Father's Day!**

*A father's guidance will show us the path forward. A father's support will help us get back on the path when we are lost. A father's love is the force that pushes us every step of the way.*

from



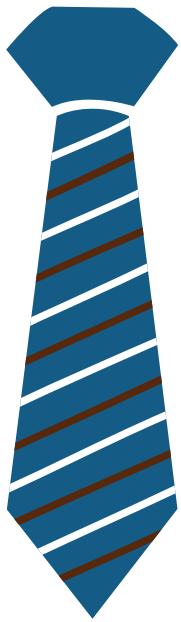
**Ramon "RB" Jose Blas Camacho**  
Mayor of Saipan and Staff

**HAPPY Father's Day**

*Dads*  
ARE MOST ORDINARY MEN  
TURNED BY LOVE  
INTO HEROES, ADVENTURERS,  
STORY-TELLERS,  
AND TELLERS OF DAD-JOKES.

**McDonald's of Saipan**  
**30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

# Fun Facts: Father's Day - June 18



## History of Father's Day

The idea of Father's Day was conceived more than a century ago by Sonora Dodd of Spokane, Washington. Dodd wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart, a widowed Civil War veteran who was left to raise his six children on a farm.

In 1966, then-President Lyndon Johnson issued a proclamation setting aside the third Sunday in June to honor fathers. Father's Day has been celebrated annually since 1972, when then-President Richard Nixon signed a law making it a permanent national holiday.

*Why do golfers carry an extra pair of socks?*



*In case they get a hole in one!*



## Gift Ideas for Dad

- **20,000** - The number of sporting goods stores in 2021. These stores are good places to purchase traditional gifts for dad, such as fishing rods and golf clubs.
- **15,000** - The number of hardware stores in 2021, a place to buy hammers, wrenches, screwdrivers, and other items high on the list of Father's Day gifts. Additionally, there were **5,969** home centers across the country in 2021.
- **6,000** - The number of men's clothing stores in 2021, a good place to buy dad a tie or shirt.



## Services for Dad

- **115,000** - The number of landscaping services nationwide in 2021.
- **83,000** - The number of general automotive repair businesses nationwide in 2021.
- **7,000** - The number of barber shops nationwide in 2021.



## Fathers by the Numbers

### 72 million\*

The estimated number of fathers across the nation.

### 29 million\*

The number of fathers who were grandfathers.

### 24 million

The number of fathers living in opposite-sex married-couple family groups with children younger than age 18 in 2022.

### 2 million

The number of single fathers (without a spouse or partner present) in 2022, living with their children under age 18; 20 percent of these single parents were men.

### 239,000

The estimated number of stay-at-home dads in 2022.

The share of men taking leave has increased over time.

### 65.9%

took leave (with first births from 2016-2020) while **14.0%** took leave (with first births in 1980 or earlier).



CENSUS.GOV/SCHOOLS



Thank you Dads, for all that you do

# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

#poweredbyDAD



FROM THE STAFF AND MANAGEMENT OF



**Joeten Motors**  
POWERED BY YOU



*From Page 13*

because they were worried about commercialization.

In 1921, President Calvin Coolidge signed a resolution in favor of Father's Day "to establish more intimate relations between fathers and their children and to impress upon fathers the full measure of their obligations." Then in 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed an executive order designating the third Sunday in June the official day to observe Father's Day. But it was only under President Richard Nixon when Congress passed an act of

officially making Father's Day a national holiday.

According to historical accounts, the event failed to evoke the same sentiments of gratitude and thanks people feel for mothers on Mother's Day. It is widely believed that sociological changes and attitude toward fatherhood were the reasons behind the delay in officially making Father's Day a U.S. national holiday.

Historians further claim that a majority of the population did not warm up to the idea of commercializing the occasion with men receiv-

*Continued on Next Page*



**CROWNE PLAZA**  
AN IHG® HOTEL  
RESORT SAIPAN

**HAPPY**  
**Father's**  
**DAY**

FROM THE TEAM AT CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan  
For reservations, call: 670 234 6412 | Website: saipan.crowneplaza.com

*"A father's tears and fears are unseen, his love is unexpressed, but his care and protection remain as a pillar of strength throughout our lives."*

*Ama H. Vanniarachchy*

Happy  
**Father's**  
**Day**

*From the management and staff of*

**Tan Holdings** **50** **Tan Siu Lin Foundation**

God took the strength of a mountain, the patience of eternity, and combined them to create the thing we call dad.

# Happy FATHER'S DAY

*Hasta Adios!*  
**Saipan Tribune**  
THE ONLY'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

From Page 15

ing flowers and gifts, which eventually were often paid for by the father himself.

In *American Fatherhood: A Cultural History* by Lawrence R. Samuel, the author also stated that during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, families were patriarchal in nature, hence it was pointless to honor fathers when it was the mothers who were underappreciated.

Two economic events that also helped push forward the concept of Father's Day were the Great Depression and World War II. Like Mother's Day, it was the struggling store owners who used Father's Day to make an extra buck with the sale of ties, clothes, and other goods that men needed. Father's Day was also meant to support and show appreciation to American men and fathers who were in the front lines during World War II.

## Did you know?

■ The modern drinking fountain was invented by Halsey Taylor in 1912 as a tribute to his father.

■ Neckties were mass-produced in the 1920s to keep up with the demand surrounding the unofficial Father's Day holiday in the 1920's.

■ Frank and Nancy Sinatra became the only father-daughter collaboration to hit the top spot on the Billboard charts with their hit single *Something Stupid*.

■ Former U.S. President John F. Kennedy was named "Father of the Year" in 1963, an award he received just several months before he was assassinated.

■ Former U.S. President Barack Obama has been named as the first of 12 doting dads in the United States, according to NBC News. The list includes Jim Henson, the inventor of The Muppets; Nicolas II, the last tsar of Russia; former U.S. president Abraham Lincoln; and the inventor, Charles Darwin.

■ Among the most prolific fathers in history are the Chinese warrior Genghis Khan, who has supposedly fathered thousands of children, while Ismail Ibn Sharif has had 888 Children. Bertrand P. Wiesner, the operator of a fertility clinic, fathered 600 children, according to huffpost.com.

■ The National Retail Federation projects that consumers will spend a total of \$22.9 billion this year to celebrate Father's Day and that special outings, clothes, electronics and personal care are four of the top gifts consumers will be gifting fathers this 2023.

**Customers First**  
**TRIPLE J**

*"Any man can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a dad."*  
- Anne Geddes

# Happy Father's Day!

**Great Harvest**  
**Father's Day Special Platter**  
Promo Duration: Until June 20

**Includes:**  
 • 3pcs any of our sandwiches  
 • 1pc Lasagna 8" x 8"  
 • 3 Slices Taro OH's  
 • 3 Iced Tea or Soda

**Surf Club Restaurant**  
**Surf & Turf - Father's Day Special**  
Promo Duration: Until June 18  
 • Marinated 10oz Certified Angus Beef®  
 Top Sirloin and Scampi-Buttered Prawns  
 served with Steamed Vegetables and Corn Cobb.  
 • Your choice of drink: Glass of our House Red or  
 White Wine, Budweiser, Soda, or Iced Tea.

**\$50**

**\$38.95**

**Surf Club RESTAURANT**

**FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL**  
**SIRLOIN STEAK SURF & TURF Scampi BUTTERED SHRIMP**  
UNTIL JUNE 18

**Great Harvest Bread Co.**  
BAKERY & CAFE  
Bread. The way it ought to be.

**Celebrating our Hero:  
SUPER DAD**  
FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL PLATTER!  
FOR 3 PEOPLE!  
Limited time only! Available for dine-in or takeout  
**\$50**

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Fathers are there for our first breath, our first steps, and are our first cheerleaders and fans. This Father's Day, we honor our fathers who have been our lifelong superheroes and supporters as they shape all aspects of our lives.

Fortunately for the CNMI, it has an abundance of fathers and father figures who all deserve to be honored this Sunday and throughout the rest of the year for their involvement and active roles in the lives of their children, whether as fledgling coaches, cheerleaders, or their kids' very first fans.

Nick Gross, father, athlete, and husband, knows what it's like to wear all three hats. As the Athletic Program director for the Public School System, he and his wife, Rhonda Camacho Gross, are both life-long educators who do their best to support their five children—Victoria, 18; Phoenix, 14; Beatrice, 11; Windsor, 10; and Carver, 9—and be whatever their kids need them to be, whether as coaches, as cheerleaders, or as be-sotted fans.

Individually, Nick said, all their children have their own interests in sports and physical health, and over the years have participated in cross country, volleyball, basketball, badminton, soccer, and track and field.

"The experiences we've had, both on-island and off, have guided us in raising our own children. While our kids have navigated elementary school, we encourage and support them in participating in as many



Nick Gross and family, wife Rhonda Camacho Gross, back of photo, and children Beatrice, Victoria, Phoenix, Windsor, and Carver.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

sports, camps, clubs, etc. as possible," said Nick.

When asked which values and characteristics they try to impart to their children to prepare for the future, Nick said, "We both agree that through these varied experiences our children will be equipped with tools to more effectively negotiate life with a love for movement/sport, outdoor activities, and the arts, which translates to a healthier lifestyle and health benefits that will positively affect their health, both physical and mental, for a lifetime. More specifically, of the values inherent in sport participation, both individual and team, are vast. A few that come to mind are perseverance, sportsmanship, dedication, and leadership."

He added, "Although we may not discuss these values

directly, or at least frequently with our kids, we can easily connect the dots and support these values as our children progress through their childhood(s). Implemented

correctly, sports have the unique ability to teach kids about the importance of these values and the role they play in society."

At 44-years-old, Nick en-

joys everything sports and fitness related, but he claims he does not really practice what he preaches to the degree that he'd like. On that note though, he said "I look



Edward Dela Cruz Jr., with wife Anastasia Agafonova Dela Cruz, and 1-year-old Alexander "Sasha" Agafonova Dela Cruz.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Self-care tips for the everyday superhero

By TERI M. FLORES  
CORRESPONDENT

Every night, starting at 8pm, just as he is putting his son to sleep, my 32-year-old son, Kevin, would disappear inside his study for an hour with a "Do Not Disturb" sign prominently hooked on the doorknob. Out of respect for his privacy, I did not dare ask what he does in that one hour, but I accidentally heard him explain to his buddy that he practices "silence" in that designated hour. Explaining further, my son said that he has dedicated certain hours in a week that he consciously uses to engage in activities promoting self-care.

Medical professionals define self-care as "any activity that we engage in to maintain and nourish our health,

including mental, physical and emotional well-being." It can be as simple as enjoying your favorite cup of coffee every morning or devoting certain days and hours during the week to exercise.

Self-care is different for everyone, but what is common among the best dads is that good self-care allows fathers to be mentally, emotionally, and physically prepared, making them better men to their families and loved ones.

Making one's self-care a priority must be intentional. In the end, a good self-care program leads the way for dad to be the superhero he is meant to be.

Here are some tips that dads may find helpful in their journey to self-care:

**Personal grooming.** This includes getting a regular haircut and even indulging in a facial treatment twice a



year. While others may think that applying lotion or sunscreen is strictly for babies and women, skincare using moisturizers and regular face washing keeps skin healthy, which then helps boost one's confidence.

**Practice self-kindness.** Positive self-talk and affirmations are ways by which dads can develop a kinder approach to themselves. Give

yourself some slack and don't be too hard on yourself, Dad! It's not as if the responsibilities and expectations society places on you are not enough for you to carry.

**Meditation.** This is one of the most challenging tasks one can do, but studies have proven that meditating even just five or 10 minutes at a time can reduce stress and bring quiet peace

to a loud world.

**Diet.** A healthy relationship with food (and beverages) may yet be the ultimate self-care practice dads need. Eating healthy is good for the body, mind, and soul. Making healthier eating choices is important and improves one's moods and energy levels, lowers mortality rate, and decreases the chances of suffering from mental health illnesses.

**Exercise.** Whether it is running, biking, or weightlifting, or just plain walking, get into a regular routine of physical activity that will keep you physically fit.

**Stimulate your mind.** Staying mentally fresh as one ages is the easiest and most affordable way to practice self-care. Read a book. Tackle a crossword puzzle or play word games. Solve mystery puzzles and even just enjoying regular talks with friends and family are great ways to

forward to representing the NMI as a master athlete in the upcoming Oceania Masters Athletics Championships in late June, as well as representing Team NMI at the 2023 Solomon Islands Pacific Games as our chef de mission."

"Stay active, CNMI and Happy Father's Day to all!" he said.

As for new father Edward Dela Cruz Jr., whose son, Alexander "Sasha" Agafonova Dela Cruz is just a year old, the values that Edward wants to instill in him are "good character, integrity, discipline, accountability, empathy, and just overall always doing the right thing."

Edward has been married to Anastasia Agafonova Dela Cruz for three years and five months now, and both can be seen running with Sasha in his stroller up and down the Beach Road Pathway.

Edward, at 31 years old, is the president of the running club Run Saipan, runs every day, participates in the sports of athletics, and is a firefighter for the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting.

When talking about his son joining sports eventually, he said: "Whatever sport he wants to play as he gets older, I'll be his No. 1 fan. If he doesn't join track and wants to be in James Lee's basketball federation, I will bite the bullet and throw full support, but we will see. He's definitely not going to grow up like his father on video games."

These fathers are just a small sample of fathers who do everything to make it happen at work and at home—and we honor every single father, father figure, stepfather, and all fathers out there who are basically superheroes in disguise.

keep your mind engaged.

**Indulge your passions.** Enjoy and indulge in the things and activities that bring you joy. Whether it is spending time at the golf course or visiting with friends for a karaoke session or playing your favorite video game, invest in time that will fill your heart's desire. There is nothing wrong nor selfish about enjoying some indulgences for the one who carry dad responsibilities.

**Sleep.** An eight-hour sleep is still the best way to recover one's strength.

Practicing and investing time for self-care among fathers impacts the overall well-being of the man who carries the responsibility of ensuring the health and happiness of his family. Making this dad's priority helps make him happier, more satisfied and better able to cope with the challenges that life throws his way.



## DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan

TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • [www.dcrm.gov.mp](http://www.dcrm.gov.mp)



### NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of June 16, 2023

#### THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Department of Public Works (DPW)	3/10/2023	Sugar Dock Reconstruction & Dredging Project	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved* 6/13/2023
2. Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA)	3/10/2023	Demolition & Construction of Saipan International Commuter Terminal	I Fadang, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved 6/13/2023
3. Rota Mayor's Office	4/28/2023	Construction of Restroom Facility	CPA Lot # 014-R-60, Rota	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 5/19/2023
4. Rota Mayor's Office	5/2/2023	Recreational Enhancements	Teteto Beach Strand, Rota	Shoreline	Approved* 6/14/2023
5. Saipan Diving World, Inc.	5/9/2023	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour/Operations UBA (Formerly APC2023-0021)	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/19/2023
6. Diving Shop Light House,	5/9/2023	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/19/2023
7. Yumiko N. Brundidge dba Naka's Diving Services	5/10/2023	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operations - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/19/2023
8. Axe Murderer Tours, LLC	5/10/2023	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/22/2023
9. Hiroshi Yamamoto	5/15/2023	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operations	All Designated Dive Sites, Rota	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
10. Department of Public Works (DPW)	5/18/2023	Japanese Road Improvement	As Terlaje, Saipan	Wetlands & Mangroves	Certified Complete 5/18/2023
11. Seemark Laolao Corporation dba Eastbay Snorkeling Tour	5/18/2023	Commercial Snorkeling	Grotto, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 5/18/2023
12. Interpacific Resorts (Saipan) Corporation dba Pacific Islands Club	5/18/2023	Commercial Stand Up Paddle Boarding, Snorkeling, Windsurfing & Sailing	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 5/18/2023
13. Howyo Chi	5/22/2023	Construction of Concrete Slab	San Jose, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 6/5/2023
14. Office of the Mayor (Rota)	5/29/2023	Green Waste Staging	Liyo Baseball Field, Rota	Shoreline	Approved* 6/2/2023
15. B&J Corporation dba Dive Y2K	5/30/2023	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities & Snorkeling	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 5/31/2023
16. Le Grand Bleu, Inc.	5/30/2023	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities & Snorkeling	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 5/31/2023
17. Macro Energy, Inc.	5/30/2023	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 5/31/2023
18. Smart Star, Inc. dba Blue Bay Diving Club	5/30/2023	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour/Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 5/31/2023
19. Thank You Saipan Corporation	5/30/2023	Commercial Banana Boat & Parasailing (Towed Floatation) Operations	Kanoa/World Resort Beach to Managaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 5/31/2023
20. Thank You Saipan Corporation	5/30/2023	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation, Helmet Diving & Snorkeling Activities	Saipan & Managaha Dive Sites Only	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 5/31/2023
21. Shim Corporation dba Pro Divers Saipan	5/30/2023	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 5/31/2023
22. Deep Blue, Inc dba Deep Blue Diving	5/30/2023	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 5/31/2023

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
23. Saipan A-Venture, LLC. dba Saipan Adventure	5/30/2023	Commercial Snorkeling Activities	Saipan Lagoon & Managaha Island Swim Zones	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 5/31/2023
24. BSEA, Inc. dba BSEA Sunsports	5/30/2023	Commercial Banana Boat Operations	Designated Banana Boat Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 5/31/2023
25. BSEA, Inc. dba BSEA Sunsports	5/30/2023	Commercial Parasailing Operations	Designated Parasailing Zone, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 5/31/2023
26. Big Eye, LLC.	5/30/2023	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
27. Zen Corporation dba Aqua Marine Sports	5/30/2023	Commercial Kayaking, Snorkeling, Hobie Cat Sailing, Stand Up Paddle Boarding & Windsurfing Activities	Achugao Beach, Saipan Lagoon & Swim Zones	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
28. Seahorse, Inc. dba Seahorse Tour	5/30/2023	Commercial Banana Boat, Parasailing, & Water Jet Craft	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
29. Noriko Akari Baidya dba Sakura Saipan	5/30/2023	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
30. Taotao Marianas, Inc.	5/30/2023	Commercial Banana Boat Operations	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
31. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	5/30/2023	Commercial Banana Boat, Kayaking & Snorkeling	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
32. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	5/30/2023	Commercial Wakeboard (Towed Floatation) & Water Jet Craft	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
33. JB Corporation dba Saipan Fresh Adventure	5/30/2023	Commercial Snorkeling	Saipan & Managaha Island Swim Zones	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
34. Micronesia Resort, Inc. dba Kensington Hotel Saipan	5/30/2023	Commercial Sailing, Snorkeling, Stand Up Paddle Boarding & Kayaking Activities	Saipan Lagoon & Managaha Island Swim Zone	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
35. Marianas Trekking, LLC. Ltd. dba Super Fish Dive	5/30/2023	Commercial Kayaking, Canoeing, Stand Up, Paddle Boarding & Snorkeling	Saipan Lagoon & Managaha Island Swim Zone	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
36. United Front Co., Ltd. dba Super Fish Dive	5/30/2023	Commercial Snorkeling & SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
37. World Corporation dba Wave Jungle	5/30/2023	Commercial Kayaking, Snorkeling, Floaters, Stand Up Paddle Boarding & Windsurfing	Saipan Lagoon & Swim Zones	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
38. Open Knowledge Systems, Inc. dba Let's Go Diving - Saipan	5/30/2023	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
39. Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc dba Big Boyz II Marine	5/30/2023	Commercial Banana Boat Operation, and Snorkeling, Kayaking, & Stand Up Paddle Boarding Activities	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
40. Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc dba Big Boyz II Marine	5/30/2023	Commercial Parasailing Operations	All Designated Parasailing Zone, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
41. Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc dba Big Boyz II Marine	5/30/2023	Commercial Water Jet Craft & Jetboard Operations, Kayaking & Helmet Diving	All Designated Parasailing Zone, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
42. Aqua Del Rey Saipan	5/30/2023	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
43. Akhil Chandra Mollick dba Ichiban Marine Sports	5/30/2023	Commercial Water Jet Craft & Parasailing Operations	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023

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# Business

## China factory, consumer activity weakens in May

BEIJING (AP)—China's consumer and factory activity weakened in May and record-breaking unemployment among young people in cities rose as an economic rebound following the end of anti-virus controls slowed.

Surveys found 20.8% of potential workers in cities aged 16-24 were unemployed, up from April's previous record of 20.4%, the government reported Thursday.

China's economic activity rebounded after the ruling Communist Party in December lifted controls that cut off access to major cities for weeks at a time and blocked most international travel. But consumers, uneasy about possible job losses, returned to shops and restaurants less quickly than expected.

"The foundation for the economic recovery is not yet solid," the National Bureau of Statistics said in a report.

Economic growth accelerated to 4.5% over a year earlier in the three months ending in March from the

previous quarter's 2.9%. Growth will have to accelerate in coming quarters to hit the ruling party's annual target of "around 5%."

"The data published today suggest that the reopening recovery had largely fizzled out by May," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a report. "The economy appears to have lost some further momentum during the first half of June, too."

Retail sales rose 12.7% over a year earlier, but that was down from April's 18.4%, which was barely half the rate expected by forecasters. Growth in factory output decelerated to 3.5% from the previous month's 5.6% after interest rate hikes in the United States and Europe to cool inflation depressed demand for Chinese exports.

The youth unemployment figure represents about 6 million jobless people out of a pool of 33 million people aged 16-24 who want to work, according to the NBS spokesman, Fu Linghui.

## TGIF Lunch Buffet at Kili Café & Terrace



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The TGIF Lunch Buffet at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Kili Café & Terrace is available each Friday from 11:30am to 2pm.

Last week, Kili Café & Terrace at Hyatt Regency Saipan launched its TGIF Lunch Buffet, attracting the neighboring office community but also anyone who seeks a quick bite during lunch hours.

Food & Beverage director Hani Min said, "We would like to provide our neighborhood a lunch option that is uncomplicated and quick, yet offers a choice of weekly rotational fresh main courses with the focus on value for money. Our TGIF Lunch Buffet is designed in a casual setting, catered by an efficient service, ideal to maximize the precious time most people have during lunch hours. However, and of course, we equally welcome all guests and their families pre or post beach or pool time

with the choice of air conditioned indoor seating, authentic terrace experiences in the shade under the ceiling fans or front row tables overlooking the resort's lagoon surrounded by our unique lush garden."

In addition to the two main courses, a soup of the day, fresh salads, cut fruits and other desserts will be on display. The TGIF Lunch Buffet is offered at \$25 (eligible along World Of Hyatt) or \$20 for Club At The Hyatt members. Complimentary parking available.

The TGIF Lunch Buffet will be available each Friday from 11:30am to 2pm. For table bookings, visit [saipan.regency.hyatt.com](http://saipan.regency.hyatt.com) under the Dining tab or simply call (670) 234-1234. (PR)



## DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan  
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • [www.dcrm.gov.mp](http://www.dcrm.gov.mp)



## NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of June 16, 2023

### THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
44. Akhil Chandra Mollick dba Ichiban Marine Sports	5/30/2023 SLR-2023-046	Commercial Banana Boat & Wakeboarding (Towed Flotation) Operations, Kayaking & Snorkeling Activities	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
45. Dive Marianas Corporation dba Dive Saipan	5/30/2023 SLR-2023-047	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
46. H2M Saipan Corporation dba H2M Saipan Dive Center	5/30/2023 SLR-2022-041-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
47. Atty Corporation dba Dive Saipan	5/30/2023 SLR-2023-002-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA & Snorkeling Activities	All Designated Dive Sites & Swim Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
48. IRE, Inc.	5/30/2023 RLRm-2023-003	Blue Palms Dive Service	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
49. Aquatic Marine Co., Inc. dba Aquatic Marine Sports	5/31/2023 SLR-2023-048	Commercial Banana Boat & Parasailing (Towed Flotation), Water Jet Craft Operations & Snorkeling Activities	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 6/2/2023
50. Sydney J. Takahashi dba Fishguyz SCUBA & Charter	5/30/2023 SLR-2023-049	Commercial SCUBA Tour Operations	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
51. Marianas Seas Adventures, Inc.	5/30/2023 SLR-2023-050	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
52. Deep Blue Sea Corporation	5/30/2023 SLR-2023-051	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
53. Marianas Sports Club, Inc. dba MSC	5/30/2023 SLR-2023-054-R2 (Formerly APC2022-0014)	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/1/2023
54. Luana Inc., dba Heart of Gold Divers	6/2/2023 SLR-2023-052	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/2/2023
55. Asia Pacific, Inc. dba Asia Marine Sports	6/6/2023 SLR-2023-053	Commercial Banana Boat, Water Jet Craft, & Parasailing, Operation & Snorkeling Activities	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/6/2023
56. Mobil Oil Marianas	6/6/2023 Temporary Permit	Emergency Fuel Line Repair	Songsong Village, Rota	Shoreline	Approved* 6/9/2023
57. Island Marine Sports, Inc.	6/7/2023 SLR-2023-055	Parasailing Operations	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	STOP CLOCK 6/12/2023
58. BECQ-DCRM	6/8/2023 SSm-2023-056	3rd Annual Saipan Ocean Fair	Civic Center Beach	Shoreline	Certified Complete 6/9/2023
59. Selfish Saipan, Inc.	6/9/2023 SLR-2023-057	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 6/12/2023
60. Saipan Dive Academy	6/13/2023 SLR-2023-058	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation & Snorkeling Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 6/13/2023
61. Aquaville, Inc.	6/14/2023 SLR-2023-059	Commercial Hydrorob & SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
62. Aquaville, Inc.	6/14/2023 SLR-2023-060	Commercial Banana Boat Operations (Towed Flotation) & Seawalker Operation-UBA Activities	Waters Fronting Kanoa/World Resorts to Managaha Island	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
63. Auto Marine, Inc.	6/14/2023 SLR-2023-061	Commercial Banana Boat & Parasailing Operations (Towed Flotation), Seawalker Operation - UBA Activities & Snorkeling Activities	All Designated Zones	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
64. Mark Arnold L. Santos dba Macs Marine	6/14/2023 SLR-2023-062	Banana Boat & Parasailing Operations (Towed Flotation) and Seawalker - UBA Activities	All Designated Zones	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*

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# Nation

## Biden mum on Trump's indictment

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's rare for the leader of the free world to be rendered silent, but President Joe Biden is clearly determined to say as little as possible about his predecessor Donald Trump's federal indictment.

Biden's White House dodges questions about the matter. His campaign doesn't respond to them. And Biden himself wants nothing to do with it. "I have no comment on what happened," he told reporters Friday while in Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

The reticence reflects the precarious and unprecedeted situation in which Biden finds himself. Just as Trump is the first former president to be charged by the federal government, Biden is the first incumbent to have his own administration indict his chief political rival.

While hardly unforeseen, Trump's indictment brought a fresh round of reminders throughout Biden world that the president does not want to be drawn into the drama with commentary of any sort. He's wary of providing fodder for Trump and his allies' efforts to portray the Justice Department as engaged in a politically motivated prosecution.

Eric Dezenhall, a longtime crisis communications consultant, said Biden's cautious path was prudent.

"There are certain positions you take not because they are

persuasive but because they do the least damage," he said. "Any syllable Biden or the White House team utters will be used in court and politically to validate the witch hunt narrative."

Biden, who made restoring the independence of the Justice Department a central campaign promise in 2020, now aims to reinforce that principle as both a matter of politics and policy.

"I have never once — not one single time — suggested to the Justice Department what they should do or not do, relative to bringing a charge or not bringing a charge," Biden said Thursday. "I'm honest."

Later that evening, the White House said, the president learned of the 37 felony counts filed against Trump by a Miami grand jury through news coverage of Trump's announcement that he'd been summoned to surrender on Tuesday.

Asked Friday whether he had spoken to Attorney General Merrick Garland about the case, Biden replied curtly.

"I have not spoken to him at all," he told reporters. "I'm not going to speak to him."

Further complicating matters for Biden is that he faces his own special counsel probe

into classified documents discovered at his home and former office. The circumstances were markedly different: Unlike Trump, Biden voluntarily returned the documents to the federal government.

Meanwhile, the president's son, Hunter, faces an ongoing Justice Department probe into his finances and the purchase of a firearm while under the influence of illegal substances.

Republicans defending Trump have already sought to accuse Biden of directing the prosecution, and they're alleging a double standard in how the Justice Department brings cases.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy calls the Trump indictment a "grave injustice" and has pledged that House Republicans "will hold this brazen weaponization of power accountable."

The idea that the case has a political slant rings true to nearly half of Americans.

An ABC News/Ipsos poll conducted over the weekend found that 47% of adults believe the charges in the documents case are politically motivated, compared with 37% who say they are not. Still, Americans are also more likely to say Trump should be charged than that he should not, 48% to 35%. Most Republicans said he should not be charged, and 80% of them believe the charges are politically motivated.

The White House is pushing back against the idea of any political meddling in the prosecution. Aides steadfastly continued to not comment on the case when pressed several times on Monday.

# World

## Russia steps up aerial strikes on Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian forces fired cruise missiles at the southern Ukrainian city of Odesa and shelled the eastern Donetsk region early Wednesday, killing at least six people and damaging dozens of homes, regional Ukrainian officials said.

Russian forces have recently stepped up aerial strikes in their nearly 16-month war, a Ukrainian military spokesman said. The country's armed forces, meanwhile, have reported limited gains in the early stages of a counteroffensive to take back the nearly one-fifth of Ukraine's territory that is under Russian control.

The grinding Ukrainian advance is pressing slowly ahead, Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar said Wednesday. Western analysts and military officials say the effort to dislodge entrenched, powerfully armed and large numbers of Russian troops could take years.

Ukrainian troops have advanced 200-500 meters (650-1,600 feet) at various sections of the front line around the Donetsk city of Bakhmut and 300-350 meters (980-1,150 feet) in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, Maliar claimed. Ukrainian forces have managed to make gains despite the Russian edge in artillery and air power and large number of landmines left behind by



AP  
Municipal workers clean at the scene of a night Russian rocket attack in Odesa, Ukraine, Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

Russian troops, she said. Maliar noted that, since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion, Ukraine's losses on the battlefield had been "incomparably smaller" than those of Russian troops.

### » Killing at least 6 amid Kyiv counteroffensive

It wasn't possible to verify the battlefield claims.

Ukrainian forces can expect to make slow progress in what will be a "hugely difficult" fight as the counteroffensive gains traction, a Western official said on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence.

"Intense fighting is now ongoing in nearly all sectors of the front," the official said. "This is much more than probing. These are full-scale move-

ments of armor and heavy equipment into the Russian security zone."

The official described the Ukrainian attacks as methodical and said that, broadly speaking, "Russian forces have put up a good defense."

In Odesa, three food warehouse employees were killed in a strike that also damaged homes, shops and cafes in the city's downtown, the regional administration said on Facebook. An additional 13 people were wounded.

Search teams were looking for possible survivors under the rubble of the warehouse, it said.

The attack on the port city, launched from the Black Sea, was the second in a week and involved four Kalibr cruise missiles, three of which were intercepted by air defenses, the administration said.

## Trump's historic federal arraignment virtually invisible to public

NEW YORK (AP)—Former President Donald Trump's federal arraignment in Miami on Tuesday was historic — yet virtually invisible to the public.

In an era when people are accustomed to instantly available images and sounds of important events, Trump's not-guilty plea to charges of hoarding classified documents was a step back in time. Hundreds of photographers and television crews were at the courthouse — many broadcasting live from outside — but they couldn't show the key moments inside the courtroom.

Efforts by news organizations to loosen restrictions that generally prohibit cameras in federal courtrooms failed, despite the event's unprecedented nature. It was a stark contrast from Trump's arraignment in New York earlier this year.

Trump eventually found a way Tuesday to fill the void after leaving the courthouse — with a stop at a Cuban restaurant, where he could bathe

in the cheers of supporters.

"This is the visual he wants — I just left the court. I'm good," said CNN's John King.

Earlier, he arrived at the courthouse to be booked and enter his plea and then left without being seen. Cameras followed a motorcade of black vehicles with tinted windows.

"This is a little bit old-fashioned," said Fox News Channel's Mark Meredith. "We're not going to be able to see what's going on in the courtroom."

News organizations had petitioned the court to allow photographs of Trump to be taken prior to his arraignment, and permit the public release of an audio recording of the court proceeding after it was done.

Yet on Monday night, U.S. Magistrate Judge Jonathan Goodman denied the requests.

Also Monday, Chief U.S. District Judge Cecilia Altonaga ordered that no journalists could possess electronic equipment anywhere in the courthouse on the day of the arraignment. Prior to her order, credentialed journalists

at the courthouse had been allowed to use cell phones and computers.

"It's kind of a black hole inside the building," said David Reiter, executive producer of special events for CBS News.

Most reporters in the courthouse were confined to an overflow room, where they watched the proceedings on "the kind of televisions you get in low-cost hotel rooms," CBS News reporter Scott MacFarlane said.

Through a random draw, some journalists — including at least one sketch artist — were allowed into the courtroom itself.

News organizations scurried to make arrangements to deal with the restrictions. Several television networks, for example, placed a handful of reporters and producers in the overflow room, sending them out one-by-one to report from the outside on what had happened. Reporters also discovered working phones by a bathroom that allowed them to make outgoing calls.

## WASHINGTON (AP)—

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken will travel to China this weekend as part of the Biden administration's push to repair deteriorating ties between Washington and Beijing and keep lines of communication open, the State Department said Wednesday.

Blinken will be the most senior U.S. official to visit China since President Joe Biden took office. His visit had initially been planned for early this year but was postponed indefinitely after the discovery and shootdown of what the U.S. said was a Chinese spy balloon over the United States.

Since then, however, there have been lower-level engagements between the U.S. and China despite ongoing hostility and recriminations over both sides' actions in the Taiwan Strait, the South China Sea, China's refusal to condemn Russia for its war against Ukraine, and al-

legations from Washington that Beijing is attempting to boost its worldwide surveillance capabilities, including in Cuba.

The State Department said Blinken had spoken with his Chinese counterpart, Foreign Minister Qin Gang, on Tuesday night to confirm his trip, which will begin on Sunday and was first reported by The Associated Press and other news organizations last week.

Blinken will leave Washington late Friday.

"While in Beijing, Secretary Blinken will meet with senior PRC officials where he will discuss the importance of maintaining open lines of communication to responsibly manage the U.S.-PRC relationship," the department said, using the acronym for the People's Republic of China. "He will also raise bilateral issues of concern, global and regional matters, and potential cooperation on shared transnational challenges."

Two senior U.S. officials downplayed the prospects for any significant breakthrough on the wide array of problems between the countries during Blinken's visit. Instead, they said it was aimed at restoring a sense of calm and normalcy to high-level contacts.

"This is a really critical series of engagements that we'll have in Beijing at a crucial time in the relationship that we again hope will, at a minimum, reduce the risk of miscalculation so that we do not veer into potential conflict," said Daniel Kritenbrink, the top U.S. diplomat for East Asia and the Pacific.

"We're not going to Beijing with the intent of having some sort of breakthrough or transformation in the way that we deal with one another," he said. "We're coming to Beijing with a realistic, confident approach and a sincere desire to manage our competition in the most responsible way possible."

# Off The Wall

## Woman walking in California finds ancient mastodon tooth

APTOPS, Calif. (AP)—A woman taking a Memorial Day weekend stroll on a California beach found something unusual sticking out of the sand: a tooth from an ancient mastodon.

But then the fossil vanished, and it took a media blitz and a kind-hearted jogger to find it again.

Jennifer Schuh found the foot-long (.30-meter) tooth sticking out of the sand on Friday at the mouth of Aptos Creek on Rio Del Mar State Beach, located off Monterey Bay in Santa Cruz County on California's central coast.

"I was on one side of the creek and this lady was talking to me on the other side and she said what's that at your feet," Schuh recounted. "It looked kind of weird, like burnt almost."

Schuh wasn't sure what she had found. So she snapped some photos and posted them on Facebook, asking for help.

The answer came from Wayne Thompson, paleontology collections advisor for the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History.

Thompson determined that the object was a worn molar from an adult Pacific mastodon, an extinct elephant-like species.

"This is an extremely important find," Thompson wrote, and he urged Schuh to call him.

But when they went back to



This May 26, 2023, photo provided by the Jennifer Schuh shows a Mastodon Tooth in the sand at an Aptos, Calif., beach. AP

the beach, the tooth was gone.

A weekend search failed to find it. Thompson then sent out a social media request for help in finding the artifact. The plea made international headlines.

On Tuesday, Jim Smith of nearby Aptos called the museum.

"I was so excited to get that call," said Liz Broughton, the museum's visitor experience manager. "Jim told us that he had stumbled upon it during one of his regular jogs along the beach, but wasn't sure of what

he had found until he saw a picture of the tooth on the news."

Smith donated the tooth to the museum, where it will be on display Friday through Sunday.

The age of the tooth isn't clear. A museum blog says mastodons generally roamed California from about 5 million to 10,000 years ago.

"We can safely say this specimen would be less than 1 million years old, which is relatively 'new' by fossil standards," Broughton said in an email.

## Woman, 28, accused of posing as HS student

HAHNVILLE, La. (AP)—A 28-year-old woman who enrolled at a Louisiana high school and posed as a 17-year-old student to learn English has been arrested along with her mother, authorities said Wednesday.

Martha Jessenia Gutierrez Serrano and her mother, Marta Elizabeth Serrano Alvarado, 46, both of Boutte, were arrested Tuesday, the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office said in a news release. Each are charged with a one count of injuring public records.

Serrano Alvarado used a fake passport and birth certificate from Honduras to register and enroll her daughter at Hahnville High School for the 2022-2023 school year, the sheriff's office said.

Sheriff Greg Champagne, at a news conference Wednesday, said Gutierrez Serrano told investigators she enrolled in school to learn the English language.

"She wanted to learn English. She wanted to become

proficient in the English language," Champagne said.

"There was no nefarious reason behind this," he said, adding that the falsifying of government documents to do this was just "bad judgment."

Champagne noted there were other avenues the women could have taken, including enrolling in ESL or GED programs. "Certainly that is a much better option than falsifying records," he said.

The sheriff said Gutierrez Serrano did not participate in any extracurricular activities and had no disciplinary issues while attending school.

"There is no current evidence of any other criminal activity or inappropriate conduct" by either woman, he said.

Four days after the school year ended on May 25, an internal investigation began after the St. Charles Parish School System received a tip that a female student at Hahnville High School believed to be 17 may actually have been in her mid-20s, the

sheriff's office said.

It was unknown if either woman has an attorney who could comment on the arrests.

"The school system will enhance processes to determine the authenticity of enrollment documents for current and future students as well as modify policy and procedures as warranted," the school system said in a statement late Tuesday. The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate reported.

"As this is an ongoing investigation conducted by the Sheriff's Office, no further information or specifics may be shared at this time."

This is not the first time this year that an adult has been accused of posing as a U.S. high school student. In January, a 29-year-old woman was charged with using false documents to enroll in a New Jersey high school and attend classes over a four-day period. A judge in May allowed her to enter a pretrial intervention program.

# Science & Technology

## Amazon's cloud business slows

NEW YORK (AP)—When the pandemic hit three years ago, Amazon was one of the few businesses that thrived.

Customers flocked to the online commerce site amid global lockdowns. But even when those lockdowns eventually lifted and Amazon's sales slowed as people returned to stores, the company could still count on its massive cash cow: Amazon Web Services.

Now even the lucrative cloud services business is feeling pressure.

Companies are trimming

their expenses amid concerns about high inflation and fears that a recession might be around the corner. And many of them are being more cautious about their cloud costs, leading to a slowdown in one of Amazon's profitable businesses. The tech giant's first quarter earnings report showed its cloud unit generated \$21.4 billion and was growing at 16% in the first three months of this year—much slower than the 37%

growth rate a year prior.

It is under those circumstances that AWS held its

two-day security-focused cloud conference Tuesday in Anaheim, California. The meeting is one of several big events Amazon hosts annually to tout its cloud offerings to its clients or other companies that might be interested in storing their data on its vast network of servers around the world.

The conference, though, was overshadowed on Tuesday afternoon when an AWS outage hampered the ability of many customers to operate their sites. Amazon said it fixed the issue within four hours.

## IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

### † Isabel Taitano Atalig

Lovingly known as "Isa" or "Beck"

Sunrise - February 4th, 1973

Sunset - June 10th, 2023

#### Greeted in Heaven by her:

Mother: Maria Ilo Taitano  
Mother-in-Law: Rufina Santos Atalig  
Father-in-Law: Fidel Barcinos Atalig Sr.  
Brothers in Law: Raymond Santos Atalig  
Joseph Santos Atalig

#### She will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Fidel Santos Atalig Jr.  
Daughters: Jhaneka T. Atalig/Solly D. Takai  
Delsarae T. Atalig  
Maria T. Atalig  
Ayanna T. Atalig (Sebastian Lee & Joshua)  
Devina T. Atalig/Kenneth Mafnas (Tomas Kenta)

#### Brother & Sisters, In-Laws, and Children:

Joe Vince I. Taitano/ Kuleta M. Taitano  
(Johannes N. Maratita, Coleen Joe M. Taitano,  
Joe Vincent M. Taitano)

#### Priscilla T. Castro

(Don Joseph C. Omar/Georgena DLC Omar & child,  
Brandon Ngiratong Shiro, Galelynn M./Ryan Saures,  
Garnette Martin/Dionne Camacho (Kaya, +Nolan),  
Gloyd Martin Jr./Pernalynn Camacho)

#### Cecilia Taitano

(Lloyd Scott L. Fitial  
(Jesus C. Celes, JacePla T. Celes, Levita Devon B.  
Fitial, Lloyd Jesse B. Fitial, Lawson Paul B. Fitial, Lione  
Scott B. Fitial, Zavier J. P. Limes (Taitano Fitial), Zanicia  
Lianjra P.Limes (Taitano Fitial), Nikolai M. Taitano Fitial)

#### Brothers In-Law & Sisters In-Law:

Marian A. & Marcelo Kileman (Keith)  
Joseph S. & Louisa T. Atalig (Davian)  
Dwayne S. & Kenya A. Atalig (Crystal, Heaven,  
Daimonique, Angellyna, Dwayne Jr.)

#### Aunts & Uncles:

Cornelius T. Castro & Family  
Fermina C. Palacios & Family  
Jose T. Castro & Family  
Jesus T. Aldan & Family  
Joaquin T. Aldan & Family  
David T. Aldan & Family  
Escolástica A. Agulto & Family  
Juliana A. Cabrera & Family  
Vicente "Ben" T. Aldan & Family  
Augustin T. Aldan & Family  
Ana S. Brockett & Family  
Juanita S. Crisostomo & Family  
Rosalia S. Borja & Family  
Antonio C. Santos & Family



#### Godchildren:

Nina Guerrero Elias  
Yvonne Ta'aga Passi Castro  
Jonathan Cabrera  
Myra Agulto  
John Joseph Taisacan  
Steven Dlg. Aldan  
Koah T. Reyes  
Joshua Agulto  
Crystal Jade Atalig

She is additionally survived and will be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and friends along with her friends at Aiko's Ramen and Latte Cafe. Daily mass of intention is being offered at San Antonio Parish at 6 pm.

On Monday, June 19th, 2023, her remains will be escorted at 7:30 am from CHCC Morgue to San Antonio Parish. Mass of Christian burial will begin at 11 am followed by her burial at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be laid to rest with her mother the late Maria Ilo Taitano.

Your thoughts, prayers, and words of comfort are greatly appreciated.

The family of the late Isabel T. Atalig would like to extend their deepest appreciation to all who have helped during this difficult time.

-Fidel Jr., Neeka, Delsarae, Maria, Ayanna, and Devina

Thank you, Si Yu's Ma'ase and Ghillisow.

From The Family

# Life & Style

## HK protest song disappears from music streaming sites, social media

**HONG KONG** (AP)—A popular Hong Kong protest song was no longer available Wednesday on several major music streaming sites and social media platforms, after the government sought an injunction to ban the tune.

“Glory to Hong Kong” rose to popularity during the 2019 pro-democracy protests, and became an unofficial protest anthem. In 2020, the government outlawed the protest slogan “Liberate Hong Kong,

revolution of our times” over secessionist and subversive connotations, and the song was widely considered to be banned in the city as its lyrics contained parts of the slogan.

Hong Kong, once a bastion of free speech and expression, has come under tighter scrutiny by Beijing after the unrest in 2019. Since then, its political system has undergone a major overhaul to ensure that only “patriots” loyal to Beijing can hold office. More than

250 people have been arrested under a sweeping national security law passed in 2020 that critics say is aimed at suppressing dissent.

The song rose to the top of Apple iTunes’ charts last week after the Hong Kong government sought an injunction from the courts to ban “unlawful acts” related to the song and any derivatives of it, including the lyrics and melody.

But the song was no longer available on music streaming

platforms such as Spotify and Apple Music on Wednesday. The original version of the tune was also not available on Facebook and Instagram’s Reels function.

Spotify said in an emailed statement that the song was pulled by its distributor and not the platform. Facebook, Instagram, and Apple Music did not immediately comment.

The song’s creator, DGX Music, said in a post on their

Facebook page that it was “dealing with some technical issues related to streaming platforms” and apologized for the “temporary” issue.

Versions of the song, including the one by the original creators, were still available on video-streaming site YouTube.

The Hong Kong govern-

ment sought an injunction to ban the song after it was mistakenly played as the city’s anthem at several international sporting events in the past year, instead of China’s national anthem “March of the Volunteers.”

Court hearings in the case have been adjourned until July 21.

## Climate protesters throw paint and glue at Monet painting in Swedish museum

**STOCKHOLM** (AP)—Two women were detained in Stockholm after they threw “some kind of paint” at a painting by French artist Claude Monet and then glued themselves to the frame, Sweden’s National Museum said Wednesday.

The painting, “The Artist’s Garden at Giverny,” was on display as part of an exhibition at the museum. Spokesperson Hanna Tottmar said artwork was encased in glass and “is now being examined by the museum’s conservators to see

if any damage has occurred.”

The exhibit, titled “The Garden,” was closed but expected to reopen to visitors on Thursday. “We naturally distance ourselves from actions where art or cultural heritage risks being damaged ... regardless of the purpose,” Per Hedström, the museum’s acting director, said.

Before they were apprehended, the activists smeared red paint on the painting, according to a video of Wednesday’s incident.

## Tory Lanez sentencing on Megan Thee Stallion shooting is delayed to August

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Tory Lanez’s sentencing for shooting and wounding hip-hop star Megan Thee Stallion was delayed on Tuesday.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge David Herriford accepted the defense’s request to delay Lanez’s sentencing, which is now scheduled for Aug. 7. Prosecutors are seeking a 13 year prison sentence and Lanez faces deportation to his native Canada.

Herriford decided to give Lanez’s lawyers more time to prepare their sentencing recom-

mendation, which is due Aug. 1. The judge, who will sentence Lanez, denied a motion from Lanez’ defense attorneys for a new trial on May 9.

During the brief court hearing, Lanez mostly kept his head down and barely made eye contact with anyone. He wore an orange jail outfit and black cap.

Lanez was convicted in December of three felonies: assault with a semiautomatic firearm; having a loaded, unregistered firearm in a vehicle and discharging a firearm with gross negligence.

## Barbara Kingsolver wins Women’s Prize for Fiction



Author Barbara Kingsolver attends the 2023 Women’s Prize For Fiction Winner’s Ceremony, in London, Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

people are allowed to laugh at,” Kingsolver told The Associated Press. “And we’re mad about it.”

Kingsolver has long woven social issues into her novels, which include “The Bean Trees” and “The Poisonwood Bible,” and helped establish the PEN/Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction. Oprah Winfrey chose “Demon Copperhead” for her book club last year.

Journalist Louise Minchin, who chaired the Women’s Prize

judging panel, said the winning novel was “a towering, deeply powerful and significant book.”

“Demon Copperhead” tackles universal themes – from addiction and poverty, to family, love, and the power of friendship and art,” Minchin said. “It packs a triumphant emotional punch, and it is a novel that will withstand the test of time.”

Kingsolver said the book came from a desire “to tell the story of this place where I live and what has been done to it.”

“Appalachia has been so particularly exploited, almost treated as an internal colony,” she said, calling the opioid epidemic “one more turn in this exploitation trade.”

“It’s a hard story to tell. And I really spent years thinking that it was totally impossible. And then it dawned on me that that’s just what Charles Dickens did. Why not tell his story, in my voice, in my place?”

Kingsolver said she didn’t think the great novelist, who chronicled the extremes of poverty and wealth in Victorian Britain, would mind her borrowing his plot.

“I love his anger, and I felt him saying, ‘Do this,’” she said.

Kingsolver beat five other Women’s Prize finalists, including Maggie O’Farrell’s Italian Renaissance tale “The Marriage Portrait” and Laline Paull’s dolphin drama “Pod.”

Founded in 1996, the prize is open to female English-language writers from any country. Previous winners include Zadie Smith, Tayari Jones and Susanna Clarke. Last year’s prize went to Canadian-American novelist Ruth Ozeki for “The Book of Form and Emptiness.”

## Grad student frets about boyfriend’s social life

**D**EAR ABBY: My partner, “Josh,” and I (we’re both male) have been together for two years. We met while living in LA and were fortunate to be accepted to grad schools in NYC. We’re not living together now as our schools are in different boroughs, but we see each other most weekends.

Recently, Josh has been trying to make more friends, as our social network seems more heavily skewed toward people from my circles (school, past work, etc.). I have the benefit of living on a grad school campus with in-person classes. Ninety percent of my peers are within the three buildings around me. Josh’s school has more students spread around Manhattan.

I’m trying to figure out how I can support him making friends organically while not feeling like I’m ignoring him or missing out on time with him. We communicate well, and I’ve asked how I can help him, or if I should give him more space (i.e., not come over some weekends to give him more free time to make plans with other people), but he gets upset at me not being around when I could be.

I’m not sure how to support his social growth. I’ve tried suggesting he join student groups, take in-person classes rather than hybrid or online, join local events and groups, etc., but he seems resistant. What should I do?

OUT OF IDEAS IN THE BRONX

**DEAR OUT OF IDEAS:** You and your partner have very different personalities. It should be apparent that Josh likes being a part of your circle to the point that he doesn’t want to build one of his own. He also may feel more confident when you are close by.

As much as you care for him, this indicates a basic incompatibility. While this may be acceptable to you now, with time it may become an increasingly heavy burden. Couples counseling could be useful, perhaps from an LGBTQ community center or a student health center on your campus, to help you both thrash this out. From where I sit, it appears you are already doing as much to support Josh as you can.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I am dating a guy I will be formally engaged to soon. My problem is I’m my mother’s caregiver, and it’s not an easy task. I love her and would do it all over again; however, I hope never to HAVE to do it again. My soon-to-be fiance has several medical issues, and I don’t want to end up being HIS caregiver. I know something could just as well happen to me, but I’m very afraid of this. Please advise.

GIVING TOO MUCH IN MISSOURI

**DEAR GIVING:** What would you do if your boyfriend

## DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

were to become seriously ill and in need of care TOMORROW? Would you run for the hills? While marriage carries a stronger obligation, if you love each other, would either of you end the relationship to avoid the responsibility? There are no guarantees in life. We take the bitter with the sweet. I understand caregiver burnout, which is what I suspect is your problem, but please do not become engaged until you have worked this out.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# McClanahan earns 10th win, Rays take 2 of 3 from Rangers



ST. PETERS-BURG, Fla.

(AP)—Shane McClanahan became the first 10-game winner in the major leagues and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Texas Rangers 7-3 on Sunday, taking two of three games in a match up of the teams with best records in baseball.

McClanahan (10-1) allowed three runs, all in the third inning, and four hits over seven innings. The 26-year-old left-hander retired his final 15 batters.

Wander Franco homered off Martín Pérez (6-2) in the fourth inning for MLB-leading Tampa Bay (48-20), which improved to 31-7 at home. Randy Arozarena, Isaac Paredes, Taylor Walls, and Harold Ramírez added run-scoring hits for the Rays.

Robbie Grossman homered for the AL West-leading Rangers (41-23), who have lost three of four.

Pérez lasted a season-low 3 1/3 innings, allowing a season high-tying seven runs and 10 hits.

## RED SOX 3, YANKEES 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Kiké Hernández hit a tiebreaking single in the 10th inning and Boston beat New York with the help of a late error by second baseman Gleyber Torres.

Justin Turner homered and Brayan Bello allowed three hits in seven efficient innings for the Red Sox, matching his career high. Last-place Boston (33-33) took two of three at Yankee Stadium in the first series this season between the rivals.

Kenley Jansen (2-3) worked a 1-2-3 ninth for the win. Chris Martin worked a hitless inning for his 10th career save and first for the Red Sox.

Jose Trevino's early two-run single that took a lucky bounce off second base was one of only three hits for the Yankees—and all the offense they could muster. Ron Mariaccio (2-3) took the loss.

## PIRATES 2, METS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Andrew McCutchen got his 2,000th hit, Jack Suwinski hit his 12th home run and Pittsburgh sent New York to its eighth loss in nine games.

McCutchen became the 291st player and fifth active player to reach 2,000 hits when he laced a slider from Carlos Carrasco (2-3) to left field leading off the first.

Mitch Keller (8-2) allowed two hits in seven innings for the Pirates, who went 6-3 during a season-high nine-game homestand to move into first

place in the NL Central (34-30). David Bednar earned his 14th save in 15 chances.

Jeff McNeil hit his third home run of the season for New York, which finished a 1-5 trip through Atlanta and Pittsburgh.

## ATHLETICS 8, BREWERS 6

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Seth Brown and Brent Rooker hit back-to-back homers in the fourth inning and Oakland completed its first series sweep of the season.

Kevin Smith also homered as the A's erased an early 2-0 deficit and won their fifth straight. This marks the first time they've had five consecutive victories within the same season since September 2021.

Since falling 5-4 at Pittsburgh on Monday for their 15th straight road loss, the Athletics have gone 5-0 on the road. Athletics starter JP Sears (1-3) struck out five and allowed six hits and two runs in five innings.

Christian Yelich homered for the Brewers. Freddy Peralta (5-6) took the loss.

## ROCKIES 5, PADRES 4

DENVER (AP)—Ryan McMahon hit a tying homer in heavy rain just before a 1-hour, 25-minute delay in the ninth inning and Nolan Jones hit a game-ending 472-foot drive just after the resumption in Colorado's win over San Diego.

Colorado's Coco Montes homered in his major league debut to spoil a strong start by Blake Snell, who struck out a season-high 12 in seven innings. Ezequiel Tovar also went deep for the Rockies. Justin Lawrence's (3-3) pitched an inning of relief and earned the win.

Jake Cronenworth homered and Fernando Tatis Jr. had two hits for the Padres, who were trying to sweep a series in Denver for the first time since Sept. 19-21, 2011. Brent Honeywell (2-4) took the loss.

## NATIONALS 6, BRAVES 2

ATLANTA (AP)—Dominic Smith and Jeimer Candelario hit two-run homers in the sixth inning as Washington stopped a six-game skid and Atlanta's seven-game winning streak.

Trevor Williams (3-4) allowed two runs, seven hits and one walk in five innings with six strikeouts. Carl Edwards Jr., Kyle Finnegan and Hunter Harvey combined for two-hit relief.

Bryce Elder (4-1) allowed a season-high five runs and eight hits in 5 1/3



Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Shane McClanahan celebrates at the end of the seventh inning against the Texas Rangers in a baseball game, Sunday, June 11, 2023, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

innings. Elder struck out a season-low one.

Keibert Ruiz had two hits and an RBI for the Nationals, and Luis García also had two hits. Matt Olson hit his 18th home run, a two-run shot, for the Braves.

## ANGELS 9, MARINERS 4

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Rookie Zach Neto had his first two-homer game, Shohei Ohtani kept up a hot June with three hits and Los Angeles beat Seattle.

Matt Thaiss drove in three runs and Taylor Ward also went deep for the Angels, who have won six of seven. Griffin Canning (5-2) won for the third time in four starts, striking out seven in five-plus innings.

Seattle's Teoscar Hernández had three hits, including a two-run homer in the fourth. Ty France also had three hits and Mike Ford had a solo shot in the fifth for the Mariners, who finished a 2-6

trip. Logan Gilbert (4-4) allowed eight hits, two walks and two homers and seven runs (six earned) in three innings for the loss.

## ORIOLES 11, ROYALS 3

BALTIMORE (AP)—Gunnar Henderson homered for the second consecutive game,

and Baltimore completed a series sweep and dealt Kansas City its sixth straight loss.

Starter Kyle Gibson earned his fourth consecutive victory for Baltimore. Ramón Urias had four hits and Ryan O'Hearn homered as part of a three-hit day as the Orioles completed their fourth series sweep.

Salvador Perez homered for Kansas City, which has dropped nine of 10. The Royals (18-47) have the second-worst record in the majors, ahead of only Oakland, and have scored eight runs in their last five games.

Gibson (8-3) allowed three runs and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings. Mike Mayers (1-2) took the loss.

## PHILLIES 7, DODGERS 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Nick Castellanos homered, Trea Turner had three hits and Philadelphia beat Los Angeles for its seventh win in eight games.

Bryce Harper had two hits, an RBI and reached base all four times as the Phillies took two of three from the Dodgers.

Freddie Freeman and Jason Heyward homered for the Dodgers, who have lost six of eight and dropped 3 1/2 games behind first-place Ari-

zona in the NL West.

Taijuan Walker (6-3) pitched five scoreless innings, allowing two hits with five strikeouts and two walks. Caleb Ferguson (3-3) was the opener for LA and gave up a run and three hits in one inning.

## BLUE JAYS 7, TWINS 6

TORONTO (AP)—Cavan Biggio hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the eighth inning and Toronto overcame a five-run deficit to beat Minnesota and avoid a three-game sweep.

Biggio's fifth homer of the season came off Emilio Pagán (3-1), who began the eighth by giving up singles to Alejandro Kirk and Santiago Espinal.

Matt Chapman added a two-run homer and had three RBIs for the Blue Jays, who are 8-3 in June. Nate Pearson (4-0) allowed one hit in two scoreless innings. Jordan Romano picked up his 18th save in 21 chances.

Donovan Solano homered for the AL Central-leading Twins, who failed to hold a 6-1, fifth-inning lead. Minnesota's Royce Lewis had three hits.

## DIAMONDBACKS 7, TIGERS 5

DETROIT (AP)—Christian Walker hit a go-ahead double off Jason Foley (2-2) with two outs in a four-run ninth inning as NL West-leading Arizona won its fifth straight, completing a three-game sweep that extended the Tigers' losing streak to nine games.

Corbin Carroll closed Arizona to 5-4, and Walker hit an RBI double as left fielder Kerry Carpenter's error allowed the go-ahead run. Gerardo Perdomo followed with a run-scoring single.

Kevin Ginkel (3-0) pitched two hitless innings, and Scott McGough got two outs for his second save.

## GUARDIANS 5, ASTROS 0

CLEVELAND (AP)—Shane Bieber (5-3) gave up three hits over seven innings nine strikeouts. Trevor Stephan and closer Emmanuel Clase pitched an inning apiece to finish the four-hitter.

Andrés Giménez hit a two-run homer in the second inning off Brandon Bielak (3-3) and Josh Bell added a solo shot in the fourth as the surging Guardians, who have won six of eight and 10 of 16, took a series from Houston for the first time since 2017.

Freddie Freeman and Jason Heyward homered for the Dodgers, who have lost six of eight and dropped 3 1/2 games behind first-place Ari-

zona in the NL West.

Jorge Soler hit two of Miami's four solo homers. Garrett Cooper and Jean Segura also connected as Miami rallied for victory for the fifth time in seven games and the 20th time this season.

Bryan Hoeing (1-1) pitched a scoreless inning for the win, and A.J. Puk worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his seventh save.

Luis Robert Jr. hit a two-run homer for Chicago, which led 5-1 after seven innings. Kendall Graveman (1-3) took the loss.

## REDS 4, CARDINALS 3

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Rookie Elly De La Cruz had two hits, reached base four times and scored the go-ahead run with a headfirst slide on an eighth-inning grounder, helping Cincinnati past St. Louis.

De La Cruz beat out an infield single in the first inning, and tied the score at 2 with an RBI single in the third. After walking in the sixth, he scored on Tyler Stephenson's single, tying the score at 3. In the eighth, he walked against Jordan Hicks (1-4) and moved to third on a ground-out and passed ball. With the infield in, Stephenson hit a two-hopper to Paul DeJong, whose throw was slightly up the first-base line and in the dirt. The ball bounced off Contreras' mitt and De La Cruz scored.

Ian Gibaut (6-1) allowed one hit in 1 2/3 scoreless innings of relief. Alexis Díaz remained perfect in 15 save chances as the Reds took two of three from the Cardinals. Jonathan India homered in the win.

Jordan Walker, Tommy Edman and Nolan Arenado knocked in runs for the Cardinals.

## GIANTS 13, CUBS 3

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Joc Pederson and Thairo Estrada each hit two-run homers and drove in four runs as San Francisco built a six-run lead through five innings and rolled past Chicago.

Blake Sabol added two hits and two RBIs for a Giants offense that banged out 15 hits less than 24 hours after being no-hit for 7 2/3 innings by Chicago's Kyle Hendricks in a 4-0 loss.

Gold Glove shortstop Brandon Crawford came off the bench to get the final three outs. Tristan Beck (1-0) pitched two innings to win.

Yan Gomes had two hits for the Cubs. Hayden Wesneski (2-4) allowed four hits and five runs in three innings. He is winless since April 27.

# Darko Rajakovic thrilled to be taking over as Raptors coach



**TORONTO** (AP) — Darko Rajakovic has been in a good mood ever since the Toronto Raptors made him the 10th head coach in franchise history.

"The last three days I've had a smile on my face so much my jaw is starting to hurt," Rajakovic joked Tuesday at an outdoor news conference.

Rajakovic, 44, replaces Nick Nurse, who was fired on April 21 after Toronto went 41-41 and lost in the opening round of the play-in tournament.

"We're really, really excited for this day," Raptors president Masai Ujiri said, seated alongside Rajakovic on a stage set up outside the team's downtown arena. "I know it's change and sometimes change is hard, but we believe change is good, and change is good for our ball club and our organization now."

General manager Bobby Webster said Rajakovic "didn't go in as the favorite" when Toronto started its search, but won over the Raptors as the process evolved.

"He's really smart, he's detailed, he's structured," Webster said. "He has a really diverse set of experiences internationally, but also in the

AP  
Toronto Raptors NBA basketball team new head coach Darko Rajakovic poses for a photo following a media availability in Toronto on Tuesday, June 13, 2023.



NBA. He's worked for a number of organizations and directly with a lot of, like, high-caliber players and it just kind of all fit. He just exceeded our expectations and just really impressed us."

Rajakovic said he felt an immediate connection with Toronto's front office staff.

"The first time we started talking on a Zoom call, what

I felt from day one was unity," Rajakovic said. "Everyone in the organization, you could just feel that everybody is together."

Born and raised in Serbia, Rajakovic has been involved in coaching since his teens. He coached in Spain before coming to the United States.

Rajakovic was a head coach for two seasons in the G League (then called the

NBA Development League) before joining the Oklahoma City Thunder as an assistant before the 2014-15 season. He spent the 2019-20 season as an assistant with Phoenix, then joined Memphis the following year.

At his introductory news conference, Rajakovic fielded a question in Serbian from a Serbian-language broadcaster

based in Toronto. The city has a significant population of Serbian immigrants.

Rajakovic said it "means the world" to be the second Serbian-born coach in the NBA after Igor Kokoskov, who led the Suns in 2018-19.

"It means so much to the Serbian community here in Toronto," Rajakovic said. "A lot of people reached out to

## Nuggets built a championship team the right way, and built it to last

By TIM REYNOLDS  
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

The newly crowned NBA champions—they got there Monday night, beating the Miami Heat 94-89 to end the NBA Finals in five games—have five starters that are all 30 and under. They have a superstar leading the way, an elite second option, and a slew of really good players who could have bigger roles elsewhere yet chose to be part of something more meaningful.

All of that could have been said about the Golden State Warriors when they won their first of their four most recent titles in 2015.

Now, it's the Nuggets who are following a similar—and proven—formula.

"You know, Pat Riley said something many years ago," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said after it was all over. "I used to have it up on my board when I was a head coach in Sacramento, and it talked about the evolution in this game and how you go from a nobody to an upstart, and you go from an upstart to a winner and a winner to a contender and a contender to a champion, and the last step is after a champion is to be a dynasty."

Even in a championship moment, Malone is already

thinking about more. Riley, the Heat president and a nine-time champion as a coach, player and executive, is wired the same way.

It's not crazy to think the Nuggets can do more. For starters, they have Nikola Jokic.

There are other stars who stand out in their own ways—Philadelphia's Joel Embiid replaced Jokic as MVP this year, past MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo of Milwaukee may be the best two-way player in the league, Dallas' Luka Doncic is surely going to be an MVP before long—but there's no other Jokic, who has gone from second-round pick to triple-double machine.

It's time to end all debate about Jokic. He's slow, can't jump and will never wow anyone with athleticism. And none of that matters. He's smart, he's selfless and he's unstoppable. Period. End of story. The best player in the playoffs, the NBA Finals MVP, and now the big man from Sombor, Serbia is a champion. The days of any Jokic slander being allowed are officially over.

"I think there's more to come, actually, from Jok," Nuggets guard Jamal Murray said. "I think we haven't seen a side of Jok that we are going to see where he can be just

pure dominance all the way, the whole game, even more than he has been."

Here's what the other 29 teams should say when they hear that: "Yikes."

Murray is to Jokic what Dwyane Wade was to LeBron James, what Kobe Bryant was to Shaquille O'Neal (before it became the other way around), what Scottie Pippen was to Michael Jordan. He is Robin next to Batman, a guy who would be a No. 1 option on many other teams yet checked his ego at the door and made it work in Denver.

Murray has sacrificed some stats. Some spotlight, too. The championship ring that he'll be getting this fall, however, will have exactly the same amount of diamonds as the one Jokic will get. It all evens out.

"To be here just kind of rounds it out and shows that when we are given the right circumstances and everybody healthy, God willing, we can do it," Murray said. "I think when we're playing our best basketball, we are a very hard team to stop."

It's difficult to argue that point.

To be fair, this wasn't the toughest path a team ever took to a title. Denver beat two No. 8 seeds—Minnesota and Miami—along with a No. 7 seed

in the Los Angeles Lakers and a No. 4 seed in Phoenix to win this championship. But it was dominant. The Nuggets never trailed in a series. They went 16-4 in the postseason. They won 10 of their final 11 games. They left no doubt.

Malone was an assistant coach in Golden State just as the Warriors were starting down the path of becoming the NBA's immovable object. He left two years before Stephen Curry's first title to take over in Sacramento, getting fired early into Year 2 there. Then Denver hired him, and his first three seasons there resulted in zero playoff appearances. Usually, that gets a guy fired.

The Nuggets kept him. The debt was repaid in full on Monday night. Patience paid off, and so did institutional belief that Malone was the right guy, that Jokic—the greatest No. 41 pick in NBA draft history—would become a great, that Denver was building something the right way.

"You know, it's not for everybody," Malone said. "This was the best course for us, and it's allowed us to get here."

It very well may allow them to stay there.

Winning isn't easy and winning a championship is darn near impossible. There have

been five different champions in the last five years now. Three of those titlists—Toronto (2019), the Lakers (2020) and Milwaukee (2021)—have since fired the coaches who won those championships. Getting to the top is hard. Staying on top is tougher. Malone knows this, and starting this fall, the Nuggets are going to learn it.

## Hawks' Snyder finalizes coaching staff for 2023-24 season, includes Kokoskov, Brey

ATLANTA (AP)—Atlanta Hawks coach Quin Snyder, who took over the team in February, finalized his staff for next season on Wednesday.

Igor Kokoskov, who spent one season as the Phoenix Suns' head coach, takes over as Snyder's lead assistant. The Hawks also hired Mike Brey, who spent the last 23 seasons leading Notre Dame's program.

The remaining assistants are Bryan Bailey, Brittni Donaldson, Steve Klei, Antonio Lang, Sanjay Lumpkin, Ekpe Udoh and Jeff Watkinson. Klei and Watkinson have been with the Hawks since March.

In addition, Reggis Onwukamuche will take over as player development coach, while Bryan George will work in player development, advance scouting and video.

The only holdovers from

me. It means a lot to my family back home and the whole basketball community in Serbia."

Toronto's new hire was introduced on the four-year anniversary of the team's first and only NBA title. The Raptors beat Golden State in six games in the Finals in 2019, Nurse's first season as coach.

"Let's go and do it again," Ujiri yelled to a small group of watching fans as the event wrapped up. "We saw this thing happen last night (with Denver winning the NBA title). We've done it here before and we're going to do it again."

Raptors players Precious Achiuwa, Dalano Banton, Christian Koloko, Jeff Dowtin Jr., Ron Harper Jr. and Joe Wieskamp were on hand for Rajakovic's introduction.

Webster confirmed Tuesday that guard Fred VanVleet has opted out of the final year of his contract and will become a free agent.

"Obviously on good terms with Fred, spoke to him yesterday," Webster said. "I think that (decision) was just kind of expected, wasn't really unexpected."

Guard Gary Trent Jr. faces a similar decision on whether to opt out of the final year of his deal before the end of next week, Webster said.

But he thinks they're also built for whatever comes next.

"We're not satisfied," Malone said. "We accomplished something this franchise has never done before, but we have a lot of young talented players in that locker room, and I think we just showed through 16 playoff wins what we're capable of on the biggest stage in the world."

the staff Snyder inherited after taking over for Nate McMillan are O'Neil Holder (player development) and Jacob Porter (video).

"We have assembled a coaching staff that brings together a diversity of experiences and expertise to develop, connect with and challenge our players," Snyder said in a statement. "Each of our coaches bring something unique to our group and I am excited to work with this staff and find ways to continually improve our team."

After McMillan was fired, Snyder coached the Hawks to a 10-11 mark over the remainder of the regular season. The team knocked off eventual NBA finalist Miami in the play-in game to claim a No. 7 seed, but lost to the Boston Celtics in the opening round of the playoffs.

# MP United are Intermediate Division champions



MP United Football Club players pose for a photo after emerging as champions in the Flores-Péé Luwal (Intermediate) Division of the Dove Women's League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

**Dove**  
Women's League  
The top seed heading into the finals—MP United—are the champions of the Flores-Péé Luwal (Intermediate) Division of the Dove Women's League.

They defeated Southern United Football Club, 1-0, last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The winner-take-all championship game went on intensely as both teams were at a

stalemate in the first half.

The only goal came after a break in SUFC's defense and MP United's Moriah Sablan clipped the net in the 45th minute. SUFC had no such luck no matter how hard they tried as the match clock wound down and handed the victory to MP United.

The roster in the championship team included Sablan, Neeka Atalig, Soledad Quan, Rachel Salalila, Laarni Zapanta, Aleina Hofschneider, Michelle Ann Masga, Jaime Camacho, Nicole Deleon Guerrero, Conchita Camacho,

7-21, 9-21.

On the second day of games on Wednesday, Galvez, who advanced after the first day, lost to Chen Chi Ting, 5-21, 7-21.

Paulo Quidato, who also advanced on the first day, was defeated by Yang Yang, 6-21, 8-21.

The dynamic duo of Nathan Guerrero and Janelle Pangilinan took on Cheng-Han Tsai and Lee Yu Hsuan but lost, 8-21, 9-21.

open division with her time of 5:02.45; Kaithlyn Chavez came 36 seconds after at 5:36.44; and Tiana Cabrera came in third at 5:49.19.

Kosuke Sato was on top of the men's masters at 5:01.66.

In the field events, Alexander Camacho leaped the furthest at 5.63m in the long jump; second went to Theo Rodgers at 4.95m; and his brother Michael Rodgers was a close third at 4.76m.

Greg Borja took the men's masters division at 3.90m.

The javelin throw event was dominated by Nick Gross in the men's masters division with a distance of 45.85m; second was Tony Ichiu at 37.47m; and third was Daniel Joab's 35.96m throw.

Maria Igitol threw the furthest in the women's open at 22.52m; Kina Rangamar was second at 21.80m; and third was Cheraline Epity at 19.82m. Lyle Andrew was the lone competitor in the men's open and threw to a distance of 27.35m.

Dustian Faisao, Lizann Deleon Guerrero, Gina Duenas, Almina Deleon Guerrero, Erlinda Shimizu, Sachi George, Doemiko Flores, Pia Rose Aguon, and Jove Jenn Taman.

## NEW

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under goal stab to make it 74-69 with a four minutes and change left.

Douglas "Spyder" Schmidt finally broke Ol'Aces' long silence when he scored on a corner triple to cut their deficit to 74-72.

Deleon Guerrero retaliated with another crucial bucket on the other end before Schmidt made a free throw on a foul by Standish to make it 76-73 with 3:09 ticks remaining.

Following a timeout by Cortez, Quan again rose to the occasion when he hit a 16-footer with 1:30 left on the clock, which was reminiscent of his game-winning jumper against Puerto Rico

For Pharmin, he said he's feeling really good heading into the Oceania Masters event at the end of June. "I'm feeling good, just of course a little bit more stuff to work on so that come game time, everything goes smoothly. Hopefully everything goes well. I'm excited because we're hosting again."

Robin Sapong, NMA general secretary, said after the events, "Overall happy with the turnout. Our coaches will continue with our athletes' training and preparation towards the Oceania Cup."

The Oceania Cup and Oceania Masters is slated for June 22-26.

Twelve gold medalists from the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games are coming back to Saipan. The Oceania Cup also provides an opportunity to qualify for the Budapest World Championships and Paris Olympics, with the same number of ranking points as the 2023 Pacific Games.

In the match between Matansa FC and Tan Holdings FC, it ended in a 1-1 draw. Tan Holdings drew first blood in the 33rd minute after a quiet first half. Attempts at the goal came and went for both teams until the Matansa's Justidy Leon Guerrero tied it up in the 59th minute.

Paire FC and Shirley's FC then took a crack at it with the game ending 2-1 in favor of Paire.

Cassidee Flores of Shirley's FC nipped the goal early 15 minutes into the game. However, Paire was not out for the count as they came from behind and scored their two goals late in the second half.

Natalie Hill-Beyer scored the first goal in the 54th minute and the winning goal was made in the 58th minute by Elizabeth Culp.

Bento earlier in the playoffs.

Schmidt answered with another 3-pointer 10 seconds later to make it a 2-point game, 78-76, but Deleon Guerrero went perfect from the line with 1:01 left to peg the score at 80-76.

Quan's two splits from the free throw line and Schmidt's lone free throw then ended the scoring, as New Chang Ming completed the mother of all comebacks to win the open division diadem.

It was an improbable win, to say the least, for New Chang Ming as Ol'Aces started the game like a house on fire and led 26-10 after the first quarter thanks to 6 points apiece from Schmidt and Basa.

They somewhat stabilized things at the start of the second quarter with Santos and Deleon Guerrero finally finding their rhythm on offense and entered halftime starting at only a 12-point deficit, 36-48.

Aranda and Rodel Pastrana then joined Deleon Guerrero in carrying the offense for New Chang Ming at the start of the second half, as they combined for 13 of

# STAG conducts cleanup of Wing Beach

18 at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe in celebration of the 125th Philippine Independence Day.

STAG will have an airsoft shooting range as one of the group's fundraising activities where people can actually use an airsoft rifle or pistol to shoot on different targets. Aside from that, there will also be a photo booth and awesome STAG merchandise to sell.

"The feeling of excitement and adrenaline rush in airsoft shooting is remarkable, really a must try for everyone! STAG has been preparing for months and have put so much planning and effort into making this event a memorable one. I am inviting everyone to check our booth at the Pistang Pinoy 2023 and try the airsoft shooting, purchase one of our awesome design merchandise or just hang out with the boys," said Angeles. (PR)

the team's 21 points to cut Ol'Aces' advantage to single digits, 67-58, going into the fourth and final quarter.

In the fourth, Cortez then employed Quan to harass Ol'Aces' best scorers Schmidt and Basa and while the former still got off his 8 points, Quan limited Basa to just two early free throws.

Deleon Guerrero led New Chang Ming with 17 points, while Quan and Aranda added 11 points apiece. Schmidt had a game-high 30 points, while Basa still finished with 21 points, including four hits from the land of plenty.

Cortez lauded his team for rallying to snatch the championship. He said New Chang Ming definitely started the game with championship jitters as they were obviously overwhelmed by the enormity of the situation and the crowd of over 200 in attendance.

He said the win was a team effort not only on the court, but also on the bench as everyone in the coaching staff, including the players, helped in strategizing their second-half response against Ol'Aces.

as the driver's defensive drills. They also taught us about driver's license, that's when an offensive player is driving the ball in. Overall, it was a good and nice experience."

The Tanapag Middle School Basketball Team member said the clinic also taught him how to prevent injuries, teamwork, and the keys to playing basketball.

"But the most important thing I learned is how to work as a team. No matter how good your players are, teamwork always matters. Some teams in the outdoor leagues have one of the best players but no teamwork was built.

So this is the most important thing I learned," he said.

The Saipan Tactical Airsoft Group in partnership with the Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality participated in the islandwide beach cleanup as part of the group's commitment in serving the islands. The group aims to not just promote the sport but also to be good ambassadors to the community through airsoft.

STAG members and their family members collected a few pounds of trash along Wing Beach in Marpi.

"Surprisingly, the coasts of Wing Beach had very little trash, and I want to commend the people of CNMI for that. It was only at the entrance area of the beach where we collected most of the trash," said STAG spokesperson Jershwin Angeles,

Just like in previous years, STAG will be seen once again in Pistang Pinoy 2023 on June

"After the first half, I told them 'the game is still long but this is it! We have to start playing well beginning in the third' and they did it!"

Cortez then thanked Saipan Centennial Lions Club and organizers of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League, led by commissioner Sonny Ebuen, for running another successful league. He also extended his gratitude to their supporters who cheered for them all throughout the season, including the playoffs and the championship game.

"Lastly, I like to congratulate Ol'Aces for a great finals game. It just so happened our team got the breaks in the end and our players really showed their true heart!" he said.

**New Chang Ming Market 82** — Deleon Guerrero 17, Quan 11, Aranda 11, Castro 10, Santos 9, Standish 7, Camacho 6, Pastrana 6, Flores 5.

**Martech-Ol'Aces 77** — Schmidt 30, Basa 21, Brungard 12, Fitial 6, Lizama 6, Kabiriel 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 10-26, 36-48, 58-67, 82-77.

Eleven-year-old Derek and his brother 4-year-old Adrien Dylan Tenorio said they had a lot of fun taking part in the basketball clinic.

"The kids enjoyed it, especially my youngest son who got to meet new friends. Coaches explained the rules about playing basketball to the kids. The most important lesson was really about sportsmanship," said their father, Dexter Tenorio.

Derek goes to school at Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, while Adrien Dylan is enrolled at San Antonio Head Start. Both are also members of Basketball Team MadFlex Sports, who Dexter heads.

## LMM

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important part of the clinic. They also made us do a 5x5 scrimmage, but here's the thing. There were no rules and we got to do whatever we wanted.

The most important lesson that I learned is that you can learn a lot when there aren't any rules, because that's where you can push yourself to the limit," she said.

Her brother, T.J., also enjoyed not only the 5x5 scrimmage but the 3x3 scrimmage as well.

"It was good, they made us run 5x5 and 3x3 drills as well

## LMM Basketball Clinic draws over 70 participants



Participants and coaches of Let's Move Marianas' free basketball clinic pose for a group photo last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**BASKETBALL CLINIC**  
Let's Move Marianas successfully held a free basketball clinic with over 70 participants taking part in the three-and-a-half hour event last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Organizer Omar Ajoste said they're happy with the turnout and are glad that the youth had a worthwhile activity to do with school finally out.

"We are thankful for the diverse ethnicity that came out to the basketball clinic from ages 4 years old and older..."

Basketball clinics tend to average 40 participants and we surpassed that in this year's LMM Basketball Clinic. Moreover, we taught everyone at the LMM Basketball Clinic lessons like basketball 101 basics, defense, cylinder principle, respect, and teamwork," he said.

The LMM Basketball Clinic started with a zumba session conducted by BIBA Active Community Zumba led by Zin Joseph Caranto. It was followed by an injury prevention session by Commonwealth Health Center Physical Therapy staff Dr. Roberto Marilla.

As for the basketball clinic itself, Ajoste was helped by former national coach Rufino

Aguon, certified referee Lito Salas, and 670 Sonics Basketball Club basketball coaches and former basketball players.

Ajoste, who is the head coach of 670 Sonics, then thanked Let's Move Marianas, the Division of Youth Services, and the CHCC Public Health Services Non-Communicable Disease Programs for partnering in the free basketball clinic.

He also gave a shout out to former Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Abner Venus, who recently passed, for planting in him the seed of sharing basketball knowledge.

Participants of the LMM Basketball Clinic only had

good feedback for the event.

Beng Palacios, 14 years old from Marianas High School, said the clinic was a good experience to learn to play basketball.

"My biggest takeaways were playing organized basketball with random people, learning how to play defense, and how to be a better overall player."

Another MHS student, 17-year-old J.C. Ferrer of the Lady Dolphins basketball team, said the basketball clinic was very exciting.

"We got to learn many things like stretching more so you don't get injured. To me that was probably the most

See LMM on Page 26



MARK RABAGO  
Over 70 players of all ages participated in Let's Move Marianas' free basketball clinic.

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## Flor Jones tops June tourney



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flor Jones, second from right, poses with other CNMI Women's Golf Association members during the June monthly tournament last Saturday, June 10, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort east course.

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

the right time."

She then dedicated her win to her fellow CWGA members, most especially the ladies that were part of her group last Saturday.

"I suppose I should dedicate at least part of this win to the ladies in my foursome, particularly Yuko Togawa as she is always a good example on how to play golf. And I need to mention my husband as well, who has been giving me a lot of encouragement and tips on my putting stroke," said Jones.

Coming in runner-up in the June tourney was Rose Rohringer who shot a net 77 (92, 46-46), while completing the Top 3 was Togawa with her net 81 (88, 40-48).

Others who played in the June tourney, with their net scores in parenthesis, were Doll Yamagishi (82), Nirimai Koebel (85), and Terry Guerrero (91).

The club continues to look for new members as the new season continues. For those interested in becoming a member of CWGA or for more information, contact CWGA president Yuko Togawa at 287-9856, vice president Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, or treasurer Lou Kim at 783-7317.

"My game came together last Saturday in this tournament as I was able to keep the ball in play and my approach shots were mostly on point. The biggest factor was my putting—no threeputts—which has cost me in the past," she said.

The Manila-born but Mindanao, Philippines-raised Jones also said practicing some rounds before the June tourney definitely helped.

"I worked hard on my chipping and putting the week before the tournament and thankfully it paid off at



McClanahan earns  
10th win, Rays  
take 2 of 3 from  
Rangers.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

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LMM Basketball  
Clinic draws over 70  
participants.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Top seed Cordon upset by unranked Muramoto

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

Top seed Kevin Cordon of Guatemala was eliminated by unranked Ryoma Muramoto of Japan on Day 3 of the TakeCare Saipan International 2023 last night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

After a thrilling and intense three sets, it was the end of the road for Cordon as he could not make it happen in the tiebreaker.

Cordon had a 4-0 lead in the first set, but blew it as Muramoto came from behind to snatch it, 21-17.

In the second set, Cordon had another wide lead up until

the 10th point when Muramoto crept up after multiple mistakes by Cordon, for a close 11-10 game.

Cordon put his smashes and kills into overdrive as he pushed for more points to ensure he won the second set and forced a tiebreaker.

Cordon won a cliffhanger set as Muramoto was never too far behind. At 20-17 and when Cordon thought he had sealed the deal, he rushed his return and hit the net. It was a long rally until finally Muramoto overtook him, 21-17, 21-17.

The winner-take-all third

set began with Muramoto drawing first blood. Cordon didn't let up easily and led 4-3. However, Muramoto gained the upper hand as he aimed his smashes at Cordon's feet and took the lead, 5-4.

Muramoto took this change of momentum into his favor and caused Cordon mistakes in his volleys at the net. Cordon was down, 8-12, after an outside serve and was stuck there as Muramoto overtook him, 8-13, 8-14, but finally gained a point after a well-placed return that just painted the inside line. But Muramoto's speed and tactics to get Cordon to

volley near the net paid off as he shut down Cordon, 21-12.

In the other ranked matches of the day, No. 3 seed Su Li Yang overpowered Jia Wei Joel Koh, 21-6, 21-14.

Japan's unranked Manami Suizu took down the No. 1 seed in women's singles, Chinese-Taipei's Sung Shuo Yun, in two sets, 21-19, 21-15.

Japan's Tomoka Miyazaki defeated No. 4 seed Lin Hsiang Ti of Chinese-Taipei, 21-17, 21-15.

Liao Jhuo-Fu shut down No. 5 Jeon Hyeok Jin in three well-fought sets, 21-14, 4-21, 19-21.

Japan's Kakeru Kumagai

See TOP on Page 26



## New Chang Ming Market hoists open crown



New Chang Ming Market players show off their championship trophy and medals after winning the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Tuesday night at the Koberville Basketball Court.

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

New Chang Ming Market completed a comeback for the ages to beat Martech-Ol'Aces, 82-77, in the winner-take-all championship of the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Tuesday night at the Koberville Basketball Court.



Down by 9 points, 67-58, entering the fourth and final quarter, New Chang Ming strung together 6 straight points starting with a Keith Santos triple while being fouled.

He would miss the free throw but New Chang Ming would get the rebound and Shane Deleon Guerrero made it a 5-point swing when he drove in for a layup, 67-63, with 9:50 left in the ballgame.

After a fruitless possession by Ol'Aces, Santos was fouled by Preston Basa and split his charities to make it just a 3-point game, 67-64.

Center Kelvin Fitial would get hit on the next play but missed both charities, but Ol'Aces got one back when New Chang Ming coach Dennis Cortez was assessed a technical. Basa was all twine from the 15-foot line to make it a 4-point lead for Ol'Aces. Alex Standish was fouled

on the other end and made 1 out of 2 and after yet another miss by Ol'Aces, Jack Aranda would stick a 3-pointer to tie it all up at 68-all at the 7:30 mark of the match.

Then with 5:52 left, Finals MVP Sidney Quan gave New Chang Ming its first taste of the lead at 70-68 following a nifty spin move and layup.

New Chang Ming would lose point guard Jeff Castro in the next possession when he picked up his fifth foul. He compounded matters when he didn't leave the court immediately and another technical foul was whistled on the team.

It was 70-69 when Basa again canned the technical free throw, but Quan once more came to the rescue with another timely basket to make it a 3-point New Chang Ming lead, 72-69, with only five minutes to go.

Ol'Aces would cough it up in the next play and Deleon Guerrero fed Standish for an

See NEW on Page 26

## Sapong, Camacho dominate 100m of NMA Challenge

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER



More than 30 athletes stormed the track and field of the Oleai Sports Complex for the Northern Marianas Athletics Track and Field Open Challenge Road to Oceania Cup 2023 last Friday and Saturday.

Zarinae Sapong and Alexander Camacho were the fleetest afoot in their respec-



Participants of Day 1 of the Northern Marianas Athletics Track and Field Open Challenge Road to Oceania Cup 2023 pose for a photo last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

tive divisions of the 100m sprint event.

Sapong came in first in the

women's open with 12.70; second was Erin Frink at 13.10; and third was Casey

Cruz at 13.51.

Men's open first place was

See SAPONG on Page 26